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THE JERUSALEM POST

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Page 19

SECOND EDITION

By YORAM KESSEL
and ORI LEWIS
Post Sports Staff

India has suddenly barred Israeli tourists from visiting the country. A group of fourteen Israelis was forced to spend last night in the transit lounge of Delhi Airport after their visas were revoked while they were in mid-air.

"They are not allowed in," a Lufthansa official at the airport told *The Jerusalem Post* last night. "They will be flown on to Kathmandu (Nepal) in the morning."

The Indian action follows reported representations by PLO chief Yasser Arafat in a bid to torpedo Israel's Davis Cup tennis match against India next weekend.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said last night that the ban on Israel travelers was "scandalous."

Another group of some 40 Israeli

Bid to appease Arafat over Davis Cup; Peres to Post: 'Scandalous!'

Israeli tourists barred from entering India

visitors is due to land in Bombay this morning and it is feared that they will also be turned away.

Israel's national tennis team yesterday did receive their visas. The four players, five members of the coaching staff and three other officials (including MK Pinhas Goldstein) will be flying to Delhi this afternoon. The Indian High Commission in London issued the visas to the team yesterday.

But a group of journalists, including *The Jerusalem Post* sports co-editor, and a small group of support-

ers who were to have joined the team for the July 24-26 match have had their visas revoked.

The group of tourists which was barred from entering India late last night - 14 in all - when their Lufthansa flight landed at Delhi International Airport has, in fact, nothing to do with the tennis match.

India was the first leg of an extensive Asian tour for them and they were due to spend five days in the country. Without warning, their agent in Delhi was informed late yesterday evening, while the group

was still in mid-air, that no further Israeli groups would be allowed into the country.

Individual Israelis are not normally given entry permits and tourists from here are given only group permits to visit India.

A Reuters correspondent in Delhi contacted by phone late last night confirmed that the group of tourists were not expected to be granted entry permits at all. If finally not allowed in, their local agent was planning to put them on the first available flight this morning to Kat-

mandu, Nepal from where they could continue their tour of the rest of the region.

A telex which arrived at Diesenhau travel agency in Ramat Hasharon (which had arranged the visit of the Israeli journalists) from its Indian contact, Travel House Tours, said it had been told by "The Foreign Regional Registration Office" that "landing permits for groups from Israel have been withheld until the Home Ministry gives blanket approval for the Davis Cup match. We sincerely regret this," the

telex continued, "but this is a policy decision taken by the government of India."

The *Post* learned late last night from an informed political source in the Indian capital that Arafat had been in touch with the Indian government over the past week apparently in a bid to scuttle the match.

After Israel and India had won through to their quarter-final meeting in the World Group of the tournament - the most prestigious international team tennis competi-

tion - the Indians at first prevaricated about staging the tie.

But facing a heavy fine from the International Tennis federation and an automatic three-year suspension from the competition should they balk at playing the match, they eventually acceded. After a five-week delay, they announced on May 21 that they would host Israel as required.

That decision brought protests from various Arab countries and angry intervention from the Arab League representative in Delhi. The Indians indicated that they were standing firm.

The change came, according to the source in Delhi, after Arafat sought to make an official visit there next week in advance of the tennis match. This, evidently, in a bid to ensure that the Indians would not

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 3)

After request by
von Weizsaecker

Moscow may let Jews visit Israel as tourists



Richard von Weizsaecker



Mikhail Gorbachev

By BENNY MORRIS
Post Diplomatic Correspondent

The Soviet Union has "agreed to examine" the possibility of allowing Soviet Jewish tourism to Israel, knowledgeable sources said in Jerusalem yesterday.

The request to allow such tourism - which could promote aliyah - was made last week by West German President Richard von Weizsaecker during his visit to Moscow.

The Soviets, it has been learned, said that the matter "required study" but did not reject the notion out of hand.

The German president discussed the Soviet Jewish issue with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres shortly before his visit to Moscow.

Observers suggest that such tourism could be facilitated by the establishment of a direct civil air link between Moscow and Tel Aviv, an idea recently raised by various Israeli and European officials in the hope of increasing Soviet Jewish emigration in general and in decreasing the proportion of drop-outs from among those leaving the Soviet Union.

These sources also disclosed that Foreign Minister Peres received a secret message from Moscow a few days before last week's Soviet-U.S. talks in Geneva, in which the Russians said that the direct Soviet-Israeli political dialogue would be resumed next month.

This message was referred to by Soviet Foreign Ministry official Vladimir Polyakov in his talks in Geneva with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy when

Shamir still hopes to keep coalition intact

Likud moots narrow gov't

By MENACHEM SHALEV
Post Political Reporter

The Likud is confident that it can avoid early elections. Senior Likud sources last night predicted that if left with no other choice, Prime Minister Shamir would dismiss Labour Party ministers from the cabinet and invite Tehiya to join a narrow Likud-led coalition.

Shamir will meet with Tehiya MKs this morning in an another effort to dissuade them from supporting early elections. Well-placed sources predicted last night that Likud ministers "who want to be coerced" - would unilaterally decide in the very near future to set up "a settlement or two" on the West Bank, even at the risk of Labour's departure from the coalition, in order to appease Tehiya.

The sources said that in the envisioned narrow-based government, Tehiya would be offered three portfolios - Agriculture, Absorption and Science. Shas would be offered the Interior and Housing ministries - with Deputy Prime Minister David Levy moving over to the Foreign



Prime Minister Shamir. (Media)

Ministry. The National Religious Party would receive the Education Ministry, the sources said.

Shamir ideally would prefer that the national unity government continue. Likud floor-managers hope that even if Tehiya should join Labour and the leftist parties in voting for early elections in a preliminary reading next Wednesday,



Yuval Ne'eman. (Karlinsky)

early elections could still be averted by holding up the bill in the Knesset Law Committee, which is chaired by the Likud's own MK Eli Kulai.

They also cited the deterrent effect of soon-to-be published opinion polls which predict a massive loss of votes for Tehiya if it joins Labour's drive.

The Tehiya Central Committee

will meet in Jerusalem on Sunday afternoon and is expected to adopt the party secretariat's recommendation to support early elections.

Three motions for the dissolution of the Knesset and the holding of new elections - submitted by Tehiya, Mapam and the Citizens Rights Movement - are expected to be submitted in the Knesset on Wednesday.

Labour, Mapam and the CRM, hoping to paint Tehiya into a public relations corner, voiced scepticism yesterday about Tehiya's true intentions, dubbing them "Shas-style attempts to extract money for West Bank settlements."

If Tehiya does not join the leftist parties' Knesset motions and if Mapam fails to vote for Tehiya's motion, the bills for early elections will fail to pass.

MK Shulamit Aloni (CRM) said yesterday that according to Knesset rules, a combined vote on all three motions will be held. She said Tehiya would "reveal its true face" if it

(Continued on back page)

State Department may advise blacks not to visit Israel

By DAVID MAKOVSKY
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. - The State Department is threatening to issue a travel advisory warning for black and Arab Americans wanting to visit Israel. It intends formally to issue this warning within 30 days, unless Israel takes action to improve entry procedures for U.S. citizens at Ben-Gurion International Airport, informed sources here say.

The State Department draft says that the U.S. "advises blacks and Arabs that they may encounter difficulty in entering or staying in Israel."

If such a step is taken it will mark the first time such a warning has been directed at Israel for reasons unrelated to regional violence.

The U.S. issues travel advisories for reasons relating to the physical safety and well-being of American citizens abroad. Most of the 50 countries now listed under the advisory are at war or experience civil and political unrest such as Lebanon and Iraq. But the advisory also includes countries with crime, drugs, and even, in one case, severe weather problems.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman was yesterday quoted as issuing his sharpest rebuke to Israel to date on this issue of discrimination against blacks and Americans.

In a story featured on the front page of the *Washington Post*, Redman said the State Department had received 75 complaints this summer, 40 from blacks and 35 from Arabs, of "discriminatory and arbitrary treatment" by Israeli officials. They reported harassment by Israeli

(Continued on back page)

Peres: Labour-Likud accord on February election 'possible'

Foreign Minister Peres said yesterday that a Labour-Likud agreement for early elections in February might be possible and, alternatively, that Labour would join Tehiya in support of a Knesset motion for early elections, should Tehiya present one.

Peres also suggested that the visiting Soviet consular mission has a mandate from Moscow to discuss

"risk" of a narrow Likud-led coalition emerging from the process but said that "the risk must be taken."

He said the Likud's interest in early elections was fourfold: "It's foolish to believe that a narrow government can be set up; it's foolish to believe that if one were set up it could rule the country effectively; the peace process, contrary to all their predictions, has continued; and the Knesset might vote for early elections at any moment [against the will of the Likud]."

Peres noted that Labour's campaign in support of the international peace conference idea had gained 400,000 signatures, and, with further campaigning, "would get more" public support.

Peres described last week's U.S.-Soviet talks in Geneva on the Middle East as "interesting." The Soviets, he said, had been "surprised by the amount of support for the process in the Middle East." The Russians were now speaking against a "coercive conference" and against "a conference with veto [powers]," and were agreeable to "negotiations within bilateral committees. This represents a certain measure of progress by the Soviets."

(Continued on Page 4)

Interview by Benny Morris,
Ya'acov Reuel and David Landau.

political affairs in Israel but for the time being has preferred to stick to its "consular" designation.

In a wide-ranging interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, Peres said that the possibility of a Labour-Likud agreement on elections "must be checked," apparently referring to a suggestion by the Likud's Social Affairs Minister Moshe Katsav that elections be held in April.

Peres defined as "nonsense" the possibility that Mapam would vote against an early poll if Tehiya and Shas come around to supporting one. He conceded that there was a

Shamir on Egypt's invitation

'Arabs invite Waldheim to vent hatred of Israel'

Jerusalem Post Staff
Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir yesterday accused "Arab countries" of inviting Austrian President Kurt Waldheim "in order to give vent to their hatred of Israel."

"We are witnessing a strange phenomenon in which the Arab countries are courting Waldheim. Each one wishes to honour him and at the same time to condemn Israel, as happened during his visit to Jordan," he said in an official statement.

"If I were an Egyptian leader, I would not have invited Waldheim," Shamir said.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres expressed his "regret" at the Egyptian government's invitation to Waldheim. Both he and the prime minister said they would take up the matter with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid, who arrives in Israel next week.

Meguid is due on Monday for a three-day visit, reciprocating Peres's visit to Alexandria last February. It will be the first visit by an Egyptian

foreign minister to Israel in six years. Meguid is scheduled to hold talks with President Chaim Herzog, Shamir, Peres, Minister-without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman and Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, and will meet with a group of Palestinians from the territories. He will also visit a solar energy plant and an agricultural station.

Observers here have suggested that it was Israel's mild tone of rebuke to Jordan over its hosting of Waldheim a fortnight ago that enabled the Egyptians to announce the forthcoming Waldheim visit. Peres had held back from criticizing the Jordan visit in order not to offend King Hussein, the prospective major Arab partner at an international peace conference, it was said.

It is understood that President Hosni Mubarak's chief of bureau, Osama al-Baz, argued strenuously against issuing the invitation, partly because of the likely reaction in Israel and possible damage to the peace process.

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London	18	20	70	Cloudy
Madrid	18	20	70	Cloudy
Munich	18	20	70	Cloudy
Nice	18	20	70	Cloudy
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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Rise in temperatures.
Forecast for Shabbat: Same.

Yesterday's Today's

City	Temp	Wind	Clouds	Remarks
Jerusalem	33	16-22	34	
Golan	33	16-22	34	
Nahariya	33	16-22	34	
Safed	33	16-22	34	
Hafia Port	33	16-22	34	
Tiberias	33	16-22	34	
Nazareth	33	16-22	34	
Afula	33	16-22	34	
Shimon	33	16-22	34	
Tel Aviv	33	16-22	34	
B-G Airport	33	16-22	34	
Jericho	33	16-22	34	
Gaza	33	16-22	34	
Bethlehem	33	16-22	34	
Elit	33	16-22	34	

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

President Chaim Herzog yesterday hosted a reception at Beit Hanassi for 60 war orphans of bar-mitzva age who are attending a summer camp at Kfar Habad.

Bid to end press strike

Officials from the National Union of Journalists were negotiating late last night with three morning papers to end a strike called by the union. After midnight it was still unclear whether those papers would appear this morning.

The Jerusalem Post, Yediot Aharanot and Ma'ariv, signed two-year labour contracts with the journalists' union on Wednesday night averting the strike.

Late last night union officials were still negotiating with the management of Ha'aretz, Davar and Al Hamishmar. Before midnight it appeared that the management of Al Hamishmar was close to signing the labour contract.

At Davar, it was decided that a few pages with features would be distributed this morning pending resolution of the labour dispute. Union officials were also negotiating with the management of Ha'aretz but it was unclear whether the paper would be printed.

Labour chooses Lewinsky for WZO-Agency

The Labour Party's Central Committee yesterday unanimously elected Aliva Lewinsky as its candidate for chairman of the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency.

The candidacy will be presented to the Zionist Congress in Jerusalem at the end of the year, a Labour spokesman said.

A possible Likud candidate is outgoing UN Ambassador Binyamin Netanyahu. But Netanyahu is understood to be reluctant to forgo the chance of running for the Knesset.

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A Time For Freedom — עת לחרות
An oratorio tribute to Natan Sharan and other Russian prisoners of conscience.

I Never Saw Another Butterfly — אני פורר נוסף לא ראינו
Featuring the Israel Ankor Children's Choir in a tribute to the children of Terezin, who are no more.

For admission details, kindly contact the Cantors Assembly Convention Centre, Laromme Hotel, Jerusalem, 02-697777, or the Jerusalem Theatre, 02-667167.

HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

On the record:

Shamir's backing for an 'international umbrella'

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, when he was foreign minister, repeatedly expressed support for some form of "international umbrella" or "accompaniment" for direct Israeli-Arab talks.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres — who was then prime minister and actively promoting the conference option — recently "reminded" Shamir of his various such expressions of support, which, Peres implied, strongly contrasted with Shamir's current position.

Peres cited official resumés of Shamir's conversations with foreign statesmen written up by Shamir's aides.

Extracts from these resumés:

1: From the minutes of the working meeting between an Israeli delegation, headed by Shamir and a delegation of politicians from Luxembourg, headed by Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos, 25 August 1986, "Shamir: Prime Minister Peres indeed spoke of an [international] forum but not about an international conference. He spoke thus as it is clear that a conference would have become a tribunal for the imposition of a solution and Israel is unwilling [to accept] this. Israel has no objection to international accompaniment but the main process must be direct negotiations. Israel was willing to accept Soviet participation in the process on condition that the Soviet Union has relations also with Israel."

2: Extract from the minutes of a meeting between Shamir and U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering, 9 January 1986: "Pickering: We have discussed at length with the Jordanians the difference which they see between 'face to face' negotiations and 'direct' negotiations. The Jordanians agree that the 'international context' will not be able to dictate anything to the Middle East parties, and will not be able to impose a veto on the conclusions reached by the relevant sides in a bilateral manner. We clarified this point to them and they agree to it."

"Shamir: If indeed Jordan agreed to this principle, it's okay. The advantage of direct negotiations is that the sides know that they must persuade each other and that no other factor will interfere with the decision reached. The question is if the Jordanians or other Arabs accept this principle."

Sources close to Peres noted that during his two years as foreign minister, Shamir was briefed 30 times by American officials — including Secretary of State George Shultz, Murphy, Pickering and special envoy Wat Cluiverius — about the on-going negotiations with Jordan and the peace process. The briefings took place on October 1 and 22, 1984; December 6 and 9, 1984; March 3, 1985; May 10, 14 and 27, 1985; August 13, 1985; September 4 and 17, 1985; October 9, 1985; November 5, 7 and 22, 1985; December 4 and 17, 1985; February 7 and 14, 1986; March 12 and 27, 1986; April 10 and 14, 1986; May 22, 1986; June 26, 1986; July 25, 1986; August 11 and 20, 1986; and September 4 and 29, 1986.

Newcomers arrive from Bucharest

Yuli Edelshtein greets former Prisoners of Zion

By JONATHAN KARP
For The Jerusalem Post

Yuli Edelshtein, who upon his arrival Sunday said he hoped to be on the "other side of the table" greeting incoming Soviet Jews, got his chance last night when two former Prisoners of Zion and their wives arrived at Ben-Gurion Airport.

The former Moscow Hebrew teacher also served as unofficial interpreter for Soviet immigrants. After he translated some comments by Ya'acov Levin, who knows Hebrew but preferred to speak Russian, Edelshtein looked at him and said, "There was a time when you were our teacher."

Levin, 27, entered the terminal wearing a white skullcap with the pattern of an Israeli flag stitched onto it. He was accompanied by his wife, Yehudit, 24, and her parents, Mark, 56, and Zhanna Nepomniashchy, 48. They flew in on a Romanian airliner from Bucharest, rather than passing through Vienna, the usual transit point.

Several Soviet olim have already reportedly come to Israel via Bucharest and thus yesterday's flight did not represent a change in policy, it is believed.

Yehudit said that even though they had to wait an extra 20 days to receive their exit visas, they wanted to fly via Bucharest to show symbolic support for the establishment of direct flights. "We wanted to know what could we do to further immigration [to Israel], she said in slow, clear Hebrew. "We knew that direct flights would be better."

Bar-Lev believes Gaza escapees fled abroad

By ANDY COURT
For The Jerusalem Post

Five security prisoners who escaped from Gaza prison two months ago have "very likely" managed to slip out of the country, Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev said yesterday.

"I don't know where they went, but I know that here we're looking for them and haven't found them and it's very likely that they're not in the country," Bar-Lev told reporters following a visit to Jerusalem police headquarters.

Bar-Lev estimated that several hundred security prisoners — who have not committed violent attacks on Israelis and have already served roughly 90 per cent of their sentence — would be released early in order to ease prison overcrowding.

Many of the prisoners would probably be released for the upcoming Moslem holiday Id el-Adha, he said.

"We are not talking about prisoners whose hands are stained with blood," Bar-Lev said. "We're talking about those who were found guilty of belonging to a [terror] organization or disturbing the peace. If such a prisoner is sentenced to 10 years and is freed after nine years, it doesn't have much significance from a security point of view."

The IDF and security services had agreed in principle to the early release, he said.

Bar-Lev also offered statistics yesterday to support his position that a greater police presence will not solve the problem of fatal accidents on the nation's roads.

In the first five months of this year, 350,000 cars were ticketed for moving violations in a country which has roughly 1.4 million licensed drivers.

"Almost every third driver has been caught in a moving violation in the past five months," he said. "So even if you add another 100 police cars, and another 50 policemen, you will catch some tens of thousands more drivers. The solution doesn't lie there. It lies in driver education, improved roads, and better traffic flow."

Yeshiva University wins WZO Jerusalem Prize

Yeshiva University of New York has won the Jerusalem Prize of the World Zionist Organization's Department for Tora Education and Culture in the Diaspora. The prize was presented at a recent ceremony in Beit Hanassi. President Herzog presented the prize to Charles Ben-Zion, honorary chairman of the board of trustees of the university's Theological Seminary.

INDIA

(Continued from Page One)

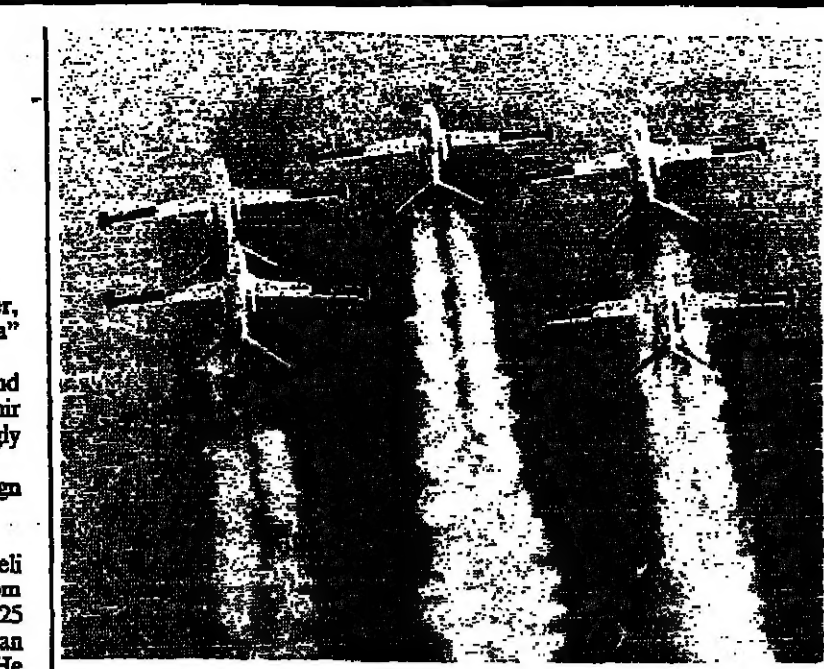
submit to "tennis diplomacy" and allow the sporting encounter to open the way to a thaw in relations with Israel.

The Indians refused his request for an immediate visit but are understood to have agreed to receive the PLO chief there on July 27, a day after the scheduled end of the match.

Could the sudden imposition of a ban on Israeli travellers have simply been the result of a bureaucratic snafu? The sources in Delhi dismiss this as "most, most unlikely," holding that the sudden visa ban was "almost certainly a visible political act — possibly an attempt to mollify the PLO."

The Indian authorities had been trying, "rather unsuccessfully," to keep the sporting encounter on a low key, the sources said. It seems, they added, that the only reason India agreed to host the Israelis — unlike their refusal to admit Israel's table tennis team earlier this year for the world championships — was the firm stand adopted by the international tennis authorities.

According to Davis Cup regulations, the host country is obliged to allow entry of the team and a certain number of officials, up to a total of 15.



Air Force Day: Somewhere in Israel. (P. Tikiner/Media)

A farewell tribute to air force chief

By BRADLEY BURSTON
Jerusalem Post Reporter

With a colourful if somewhat scaled-down air show, and the pinning of wings on its newest crop of pilots, the Israel Air Force yesterday paid a farewell tribute in the Negev to outgoing IAF commander Aluf Amos Lapidot.

Lapidot, IAF commander for the last four-and-a-half years, will formally leave his post in September.

Addressing the crowd of cadets' families and foreign military attachés, Prime Minister Shamir, Defence Minister Rabin and Chief of General Staff Rav Aluf Dan Shomron carefully avoided any reference to the issue that hovered in the background of yesterday's ceremony — the debate over the Lavi project.

Among the highlights of the air show was the public premiere in Israel of the Dolphin naval helicopter, an anti-submarine craft capable of landing on IDF missile boats.

Also demonstrated was the aerial refueling of an F-15 fighter by a modified Boeing 707 tanker. The Israeli-developed refueling system was said to be identical to that used during the raid on PLO installations in Tunis.

Other demonstrations included live-ammunition bombing and strafing runs by attack helicopters and Skyhawk fighters, and a fly-past by restored Independence War-era aircraft from the IAF museum.

As an aerobatic team flew overhead at the close of the ceremony, the cadets marched past Lapidot in a formation that spelled out the word "Shalom." The aerobatic team then landed nearby and presented Lapidot with an aerial photograph of the formation.

Defence experts say IAI Lavi proposal won't work

By Post Defence Reporter
TEL AVIV. — Senior defence establishment experts believe that the Israel Aircraft Industries has failed to present a proposal making the Lavi economically viable.

The key element in the IAI proposal calls for producing fewer planes than originally envisaged, but plans for cutting the mammoth company's production costs fall far short of the target, these experts maintain.

They examined the proposals after the IAI presented them to Chief of General Staff Rav Aluf Dan Shomron last Friday. A top-level discussion of the issue is scheduled for today.

The proposal calls for making cuts by deferring development and production of certain spare parts, but these cuts are called "small change" by the defence experts. Other proposals would save only \$15m-\$20m, a year, instead of the \$50m-\$70m required, they say.

They insist that the IAI must fire 2,500 workers, not 1,000 as it is planning to do. It should also reduce wages by 10 per cent.

The key element in the IAI proposal calls for producing only 50 Lavies, well-informed sources told The Jerusalem Post.

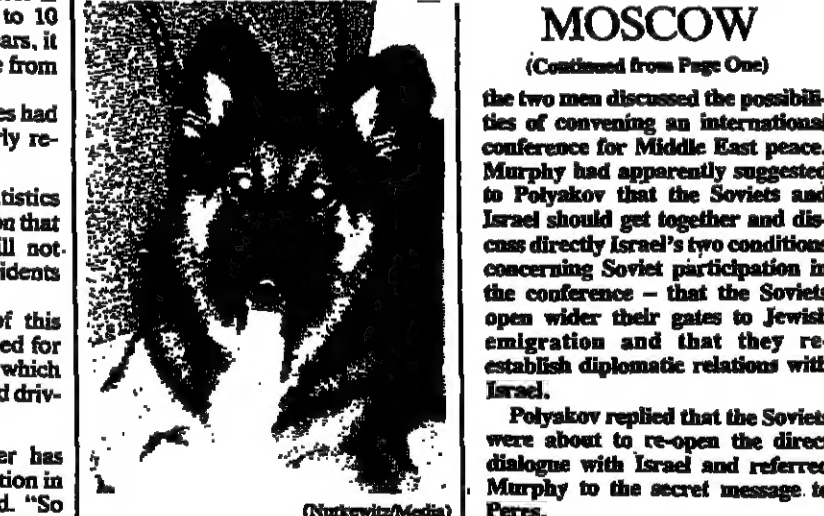
Producing fewer planes would cut overall outlay perhaps by as much as \$80m-\$100m, a year, one source indicated.

But another noted that fewer planes would reduce the IDF's power.

The sources would not say how much the Lavi would cost if 90 planes are manufactured.

Producing only 75 Lavies would send the overall cost per plane to between \$80m-\$106m.

Meanwhile, in an attempt to save the project, IAI Director-General Moshe Keret and the company's economic adviser Nehemia Hassid yesterday briefed Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.



Reprieve for Rambo

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Rambo, a Haifa dog, has won a temporary reprieve against the death sentence passed on him by a local court earlier this week.

The court is to meet again in two weeks' time, in the presence of the dog's owners, who contend that Rambo is actually a most friendly animal. This goes against the opinion of the regional vet who is demanding that the dog be put down for biting at least seven people and causing serious injuries.

A 'mezuza' for Damascus Gate?

By ANDY COURT

The founder of a controversial yeshiva in the Moslem quarter of Jerusalem is trying to persuade city officials to place mezuzot on the gates of the Old City leading to the Moslem and Christian quarters.

Abraham Dwek, founder of the Shuvu Banim (Birkat Avraham) Yeshiva, said yesterday that he had gone to Deputy Mayor Nissim Ze'ev (Shas) with a request to put mezuzot on the Damascus Gate, Herod's Gate, Lion's (St. Stephen's) Gate and the New Gate.

Deputy Mayor Ze'ev could not be reached for comment yesterday. City Manager Aaron Sarig said yesterday that no such proposal had reached his desk.

Hints that Hussein wants an election

ANALYSIS
Yehuda Litani

There are strong indications that King Hussein is about to declare a general election in Jordan. Such a move would signal how he intends to promote an international Middle East peace conference.

The indications — as yet unconfirmed — give credence to a report that appeared this week in Britain's Independent newspaper citing Israeli diplomats who predict a "dramatic development" next month.

The dramatic development — which the newspaper said would enable Foreign Minister Peres to renew his drive for Israeli endorsement of an international peace conference — might come in the form of a new declaration from Hussein, "perhaps agreeing to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians without any consultation with the PLO."

In an interview with Arabic Television yesterday, Peres said: "I think Hussein can put together a delegation without the PLO. There are Palestinians who are willing to adopt a position for the good of their people as a whole, for example [Al Fajr editor Hanna] Simiora...The government cannot decide on this matter, but I hope that the people of Israel will decide to pursue peace."

Peres stressed in this interview that the initiative for and the success of an international conference depends on Jordan and Israel. "If the USSR and the U.S. want to help then fine, but neither we nor the Jordanians are willing to let them dictate things to us," he said.

Under a parliamentary decision taken in Amman last year, the new parliament will elect 140 members: 71 from the East Bank, 60 from the West Bank and nine from the refugee camps on the East Bank.

Although the West Bank delegates would not be elected, but rather appointed by the 80 East Bankers, the king would then be able to claim that his new parliament represents the Palestinians on both banks of the Jordan.

Western diplomats who recently visited Jordan describe the mood in Amman as follows: "Something should be done about the peace process, and quickly. We cannot sit and wait for the PLO forever. If we don't act now, the Israelis may build more settlements on the West Bank and Ariel Sharon will seek to implement his policy of 'Jordan is Palestine' by expelling hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to the East Bank."

The PLO is dead set against the idea of elections fearing that they would lead to its exclusion from the political process.

Derision greets Druckman's claim for Nakash retrial

By MENACHEM SHALEV and JONATHAN KARP
Senior Justice Ministry sources last night dismissed MK Haim Druckman's claim that the French justice minister had agreed that William Nakash be retried in France and serve his sentence in Israel.

Druckman, a National Religious Party MK, returned from Paris yesterday with the news of French justice minister's oral assurance to this effect.

But the senior Israel Justice Ministry sources said there was "nothing new" in Druckman's talks with Justice Minister Albin Chalandon. Nothing can now prevent Nakash's extradition to France, the sources said.

They added that special legislation and mutually agreed upon changes in the Franco-Israeli extradition treaty would be necessary in order to enable Nakash to serve a prison term here, if Israel decided to make such a request.

Druckman, who travelled privately with Jerusalem attorney Leon Rosenbaum, claims that Justice Minister Albin Chalandon agreed to the request. All that is now needed, Druckman said, is an exchange of letters between the justice ministries of the two countries. He did not know how long that could take.

Druckman believes that even though Nakash would have to stand trial again in France, the justice minister's agreement to a review could result in a reduced sentence. Nakash was originally given a life sentence in absentia.

Druckman said this arrangement was more humane than sending Nakash back to serve his term in France, where, opponents of his extradition claim, his life would be in danger.

Justice Minister Avraham Sharir has asked Druckman to submit a written summary of his discussions in Paris.

Nakash's lawyer, Roland Roth, expressed guarded optimism in the wake of Druckman's claim, but Rina Nakash's attorney, Rabbi Simcha Miron, was disappointed and said that Druckman had failed to achieve a unilateral French concession concerning Nakash.

Minister Yitzhak Peretz, who was asked by Prime Minister Shamir not to travel to France with Druckman, yesterday lashed out at Attorney-General Yosef Harish, who had disapproved of the minister's intention to plead on Nakash's behalf. Peretz said that Harish had "bowed to pressure from the left."

Direct calls to Arab world

By JOEL GREENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip may in a few months be able to phone directly to relatives and business contacts in the Arab world, using a new direct dialling system being considered by the Communications Ministry.

The direct dialling service will also be available inside Israel, and will operate through a computerized communications centre in London built by the Israeli Solan Communications and Computer Company. Callers wishing to contact an Arab country will dial through the London system, which will automatically transfer calls to the desired numbers. The system will use existing overseas lines maintained by Bezeq and users will be charged a special fee, in addition to regular charge for overseas calls.

Operation of the system has been approved by security officials in the territories, and it is already in experimental use in a number of locations.

Palestinians in the territories have until now been unable to hold direct phone conversations with the Arab world, and have been compelled to communicate through conference calls, using international switchboards abroad.

Police arrest two Beit Jann villagers

By DAVID RUDGE
Jerusalem Post Reporter

BEIT JANN. — Police yesterday arrested two villagers suspected of involvement in last week's riots at the Mt. Meron Nature Reserve.

They were the first suspects to be detained for questioning since the pitched battle in which 25 police and Nature Reserve Authority rangers were injured and 20 vehicles damaged.

The two were picked-up after several residents failed to comply with summonses to appear at the Acre police station.

Police said the summonses had been issued on Wednesday. When the suspects did not arrive, police blocked off the entrance to the village and arrested two men who had been served with summonses.

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Herzliya
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Alice Fingerhut

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PINCUS SCHACHTER ז"ל

relatives and friends will meet at the Har Hamenuhot cemetery, Jerusalem, this coming Wednesday, July 22, 1987 — 25 Tamuz, 5747, at 9 a.m.

The Family

Syria focal point in Mideast peace process

Jordan's King Hussein and his Prime Minister, Zeid Rifa'i, have both visited Assad in recent weeks, trying to woo him away from his alliance with Iran and patch up differences with Iraq's President Saddam Hussein. Iranian officials are also constant visitors.

Walters' two days of talks with Assad signalled that five years of often barely veiled hostility between Washington and Damascus could be coming to an end. Syrian officials said the two discussed further meetings, including a visit to Syria by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Assad, 56, a former fighter pilot who seized power in a 1970 coup, appears to have recovered from a series of political setbacks last

The U.S., amid divisions within Israel over the structure of peace talks, is swinging toward the concept of an all-party conference and improving relations with Syria to boost peace efforts.

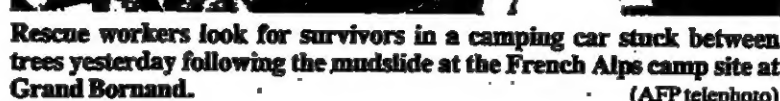
Typhoon slams South Korea

The South Korean Interior Ministry's Natural Calamity Centre said last night the death toll there had risen to 61, and 97 people were listed as missing and some 7,000 were made homeless, after the typhoon brought strong winds and torrential rains to the south of the country.

One woman told reporters: "We were all hanging on for dear life to a rope across the river and were rescued by helicopter."

Local officials said they feared 38 people were dead after the flash

Finally, in Karachi, the bodies of 16 males and one female, most of them mutilated beyond recognition, were buried yesterday.



sion shattered the city's central market district Tuesday, killing 75 people, injuring more than 300 and destroying dozens of shops and cars. Officials called it the worst terrorist bombing in Pakistan's 40-year-old history, and blamed it on agents of neighbouring Afghanistan's communist government. (Reuter, AP, AFP)

Former National Security adviser John Poindexter concentrates on a question during his testimony yesterday. (Reuter telephoto)

'I wanted to keep Congress in the dark'

He also said he believed efforts by the National Security Council (NSC) staff to assist the Contras during a congressional ban was legal because the agency was not covered by the legislation, known as the Boland

This contradicts statements by Israeli leaders, who say the arms sale were intended only to help the U.S. obtain freedom for its hostages held by pro-Iranian extremists in Lebanon.

The official said the 10 American and six French hostages were regularly moved to different locations within Lebanon. Press reports had

In an interview with *The Times* in

Iran set to sever ties with France

The official Islamic Republic news agency, monitored in Nicosia, said Iran was reducing its diplomatic staff in Paris to a "minimum."

The state-run radio, monitored by the BBC, claimed Aminzadeh was unable to speak and was suffering

Kohl makes historic visit to Tibet

Polish ombudsman to assume post early in 1988

Polish ombudsman to assume post early in 1988

6 U.S. military personnel killed in Salvador

6 U.S. military personnel killed in Salvador

The helicopter deaths bring to 12 the number of American military personnel killed in El Salvador since the war between the U.S.-backed government and leftist guerrillas began in 1979. The embassy said no guerrilla involvement was suspected in the crash.

Relief ship sails for Jordan, Mozambique

Honecker to visit W. Germany in September
 BONN (AP). — The Bonn government said yesterday it hoped the first

Honecker to visit W. Germany in September

"This visit is in the interests of the people of both German nations," the Bonn chancellery's chief of staff, Wolfgang Schaeuble, told a crowded press conference. "We believe it will lead to improved (bilateral) relations."

Philippines sues Marcos for \$22.5 billion

The civil suit accuses the Marcoses of "breach of public trust" and "abuse of right and power" in their "plunder of the nation's wealth" through "theft of public funds...extortion, bribery, embezzlement and other acts of corruption."

Jackson seeks mummies for personal collection

The singer wants the mummies to adorn his "chamber of horrors," a room in his house in which he stores such articles as the deformed skulls of sufferers from elephantiasis, a skin disease which causes enlargement of

Venkataraman wins election in India

The president of India is the head of state and has a largely ceremonial role, while the prime minister is the head of government and exercises real power.

Jewish leaders told of U.S.-Saudi deal

The White House officials spoke in general terms, and did not offer a date for resubmitting the sale.

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'Once again Jewry is fearful and threatened'

Lutheran educator fears anti-Semitism in Austria

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter
FRIBOURG, Switzerland. — Austrian anti-Semitism is more than the suspected Nazi past of President Kurt Waldheim and has a momentum of its own, according to an Austrian Christian who is a leader in the fight against prejudice in his country.

Ulrich Trinks, general-secretary of the Aktion gegen den Antisemitismus in Oesterreich (The Austrian Association to Combat Anti-Semitism), told the International Conference of Christians and Jews meeting in this Swiss town yesterday that "once again Austrian Jewry is fearful and threatened."

Trinks, whose organization is a member of the ICCJ, told the body, which is devoted to creating better interfaith understanding, that the events of the past year were "distressing" and that "every day matters are getting worse."

Trinks himself is a Lutheran educator. He said that events in Austria had become "detached from the person of Dr. Waldheim" and that despite the rejection of anti-Semitism by churches, political institutions and public bodies a snowball effect had

been created. The latest incidents included the desecration of a Jewish cemetery and verbal abuse of Orthodox Jews as they entered a synagogue.

At first, he said, the Jewish community had been reluctant to talk about such incidents, but it was now willing to speak out openly. This made it easier for non-Jews to help them. For the first time, he said, members of the Jewish community, especially among the younger generation, were willing to enter into a dialogue with non-Jews.

The Waldheim episode had produced a "profound split in the Austrian population, over whether Waldheim was guilty or not." Veterans of World War II were organizing mass applications for American entry visas, to protest against the U.S. State Department's ban on Waldheim. A leading political figure had compared Jewish accusations against Waldheim with trial against Jesus.

The pope's recent meeting with the Austrian president had exacerbated the issue, Trinks said. One of the results was a split within the Conference of Bishops in Austria.

"It is a difficult time for the church

in Austria," he added. The Austrian church, which had strongly supported Vatican II was now experiencing a backlash, he said, and the reaction was coming from the top, not the rank and file clergy.

Noting that Cardinal Koenig, the now-retired archbishop of Vienna, had spoken out on the need of the Catholic Church to repent for its misdeeds to the Jews, Trinks said that it was "a pity that such a statement had to come from the archbishop emeritus."

Trinks questioned the wisdom of Israel's not appointing a new ambassador to Vienna. "We would like you to re-establish full diplomatic contacts in order to support those groups which are not following the present trend," he said.

Itself fearful that a public statement might only serve to worsen the situation, the ICCJ took no action on the issue. But it is expected that a high-level delegation from the organization will visit Austria in the coming months in order to meet with church officials.

The ICCJ general meeting also heard a report of budgetary difficulties. Delegates were surprised to learn that almost the entire budget comes from Christian groups, with only minimal support from Jews.

Hebrew teachers in USSR face shortage of books

By BERNARD JOSEPHS
Jerusalem Post Reporter
Teachers who defy Soviet law by teaching Hebrew are facing a critical shortage of books, former Prisoner of Zion Yosef Begun said yesterday in a telephone call from Moscow.

Begun, who has served three prison terms for teaching Hebrew, told Education Minister Yitzhak Navon that unless the supply of books is renewed it could lead to a "national death."

But he went on, although teaching the language is still forbidden by the Kremlin, Soviet police have stopped raiding the homes of suspected Hebrew teachers.

The conversation took place at the Education Ministry in Jerusalem where Begun was symbolically presented with an honorary teacher's certificate to mark his 55th birthday.

The document was received on his behalf by his own former Hebrew teacher, ex-Prisoner of Zion Israel Mintz.

In a statement which he read to Begun over the phone, Navon said the certificate was presented "in appreciation of his (Begun's) Zionist activities in teaching Hebrew in the USSR."

The document, Navon added, would give Begun the right to teach if he is allowed to come to Israel.

China objects to portrait of Golda Meir

WASHINGTON (AP). — U.S. officials cancelled plans to send an art exhibit to China after Beijing demanded that portraits of Gen. Douglas MacArthur and former Israeli prime minister Golda Meir be removed from the show.

Chinese officials apparently wanted the two portraits removed from the 51-painting exhibit because of "the potential for offending the sensitivities of the Chinese people," a spokesman for the U.S. Information Agency said.

The agency was helping arrange the exhibit as part of a cultural exchange agreement between the U.S. and China.

USIA director Charles Wick decided this week to cancel the exhibit after the Chinese refused to back down from their demand that the two pictures be removed. The exhibit was scheduled to open in Beijing in September.

McArthur, who died in 1964, led U.S. and UN forces during the 1950-53 Korean War that pitted the U.S. against China and North Korea.

The objection to Meir, who died in 1975, was believed to be because of Beijing's policy of championing the Arab states in their dispute with Israel, the Washington Post reported yesterday.



(Debbie Cooper)

Survey of teenage sex

By BERNARD JOSEPHS
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A nationwide survey on teenage sex habits has been launched by the Education Ministry as the first step in its new policy of making sex education compulsory.

Education Minister Yitzhak Navon told the Knesset yesterday that pupils from the 10th grade up would be included in the study.

At the same time, thousands of young people will be questioned by the ministry's investigators about the type of sex and family-life education they presently receive.

The minister confirmed reports that compulsory classes in both subjects will be held from the start of the next school year. Eventually, he said, children from kindergarten to 12th grade will be included in the sex and family-life education programme.

The decision to make sex a compulsory subject ends a 15-year fight by educators worried about young people's ignorance on the subject.

Hospital therapists to strike

Post Science and Health Reporter

Sixty academically trained clinical communications specialists are to launch a partial strike on Sunday over their hospital wages. They will work shorter hours and, if necessary, later consider an all-out strike.

The specialists provide therapy at government hospitals for patients with hearing and speech problems.

They complain that even though they have university degrees, they earn less than sanitation workers,

and much less than their counterparts in Kupat Holim Clalit hospitals and schools.

Meanwhile, patients needing X-rays at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek and Bikur Holim hospitals were yesterday forced to wait, or to get them at Hadassah Hospital because X-ray technicians are striking. The technicians are demanding higher pay. Patients who needed X-rays for operations were told to delay surgery until the strike ends.

Peres notes that the visiting Soviet group insists on "a low profile, only consular affairs, property, capitalist matters only interest them. Okay, we'll play it low profile. Why should I inflate their ego? They can talk politics, they have a mandate for this. But they want all the time to be in a position of denying it. That's the whole game. So if the Arabs ask: what's going on? They can say: It's nothing."

Peres believes that it is "possible" that the Soviets will meet Israel's terms "but it is going to be [a] difficult [process]. But it is conceivable that Israel will negotiate with the Soviets and not raise the subject of Soviet Jewry."

Many, perhaps most, of the new Soviet olim are not supporters of Labour. "Look, I prefer Jews who don't support me living in Israel to Jews who support me living in the Diaspora."

Peres declined to comment for the record about the progress in Israeli-Hungarian negotiations for the opening of interest section-level ties between the two countries. But he indicated optimism regarding Hungary — and much more circumspection regarding Yugoslavia.

Peres defined Thatcher as "as friendly as Shultz. All the way. She's the most friendly British prime minister ever. The first to come on a state visit, took a clear position against the PLO. Now supports all our position [on the conference]. She had breakfast with the refusniks in Moscow."

Regarding the Gulf War, Peres doesn't believe that the American flagging of tankers will lead to Iranian-U.S. clashes. "Both sides will act cautiously." But he doesn't believe that the Iranians and Iraqis will prove able to separate between the land and naval wars, a distinction the UN is trying to introduce by calling for a naval ceasefire.

Then, there is no agreement on Palestinian representation. And finally there is no agreement on our two conditions. On this they said they would open talks with us.

How does Shamir relate to the Soviet subject? "It interests him. But he remains dogmatically opposed to the international conference concept. He says all the time that we must act on the Russian issue, but I don't know what he

A glorious look at Beit She'an

Galilee gambols

By HELGA DUDMAN

Inflation and fornication are the two parts I remember best — aside from the glorious general vista — of the explanation about the Roman theatre at Beit She'an. These items came up toward the end of a dusty walk through the new excavations just north of the town, and were delivered by archaeologist Pinhas Porat, of the Department of Antiquities.

Why inflation? Because the great stone stage is wider than the arc of the seats. "They began to run out of money as construction progressed, as a result of galloping 3rd-century inflation," Porat explained. The seats are therefore less grandiose than the stage, although they accommodated 8,000 culture-seekers.

And why fornication? Because, in architecture, a fornic is something resembling an arch, and the tunnel-like entrances to the theatre have what are called fornicated arches. (The word fornic has the same Latin root.) "And this area at the entrance to the theatre was rather like our Tel Baruch," said Porat, eliciting a satisfied response from his hot and dusty audience.

Our visit to Beit She'an's Roman theatre, which was excavated some years back, came after we had walked through newly uncovered expanses that surprised the archaeologists by their grandeur. First, just a short jaunt from the bus-stop, we saw the tremendous amphitheatre, with its caves where lions were kept before being turned loose on Christians and other condemned prisoners, and where gladiators fought bloody battles for their lives for the amusement of the citizens (and yes, there were women fighters too.)

We walked on to the flourishing main street, nicknamed "Ibn Gabirol" by the excavators; and then on to the vast area of the baths. The layer now exposed is Byzantine, the Roman one beneath is thought to be similar, and the long-gone opulence can be imagined by the height of the fallen pillars.

Our group of over 100, mostly from nearby kibbutzim and moshavot and of all ages, including babies on backs, are members of an organization called Friends of Antiquities. This means that they are, hardy souls, and less befuddled by passing references to Philistines and Phoenicians than the average sight-seer, who is really wondering about lunch.

This reporter confesses to being from time to time, like Mrs. Disraeli, who is said to have had trouble remembering which came first, the Greeks or the Romans. I try to do my homework; but after reading for the umpteenth time that this or that

ancient city was mentioned in the Egyptian execration texts, you are not much wiser than you were the first time.

Heat and wind and dust don't bother me; and we had great clouds of dust, deep pale grey swirls of it around the ankles — the dust that was once chalcolithic artefacts, Canaanite weapons, Saul's armour, Greek temples, Hasmonian synagogues, the boutiques on Roman Beit She'an's Ibn Gabirol, Crusader tankards, and the first drafts of the works of Estori Ha-Parihi, the topographer, doctor, and all-round scholar who settled in Beit She'an in the 14th century.

Our visit concentrated on Beit She'an as Fun City, built to keep up with the Romans in providing entertainment for everybody: the amphitheatre for thrills, theatre for culture (and sex), shops for shopping, bathing for fun and being seen and massaged. We may speculate that the baths were not used as backdrops for fashion shows, or as sites for kids' song contests, meaning that our hotel pools — certainly the one next door to me — are out-Romancing the Romans, out-Hellenizing the Hellenes. The great baths at Rome, and perhaps also at Beit She'an, actually included libraries, which means, furthermore, that the old pagans may have been out-booking the People of the Book. Sterner Romans, however, noted that many abuses flourished at the baths: "vendors of food and drink and procurers of both sexes" and "indulgence in disreputable tastes."

We heard how gladiator contests were conducted and judged: gladiators, who tended to die young, were the pop stars of the day and usually surrounded by groupies.

The Jews of Roman Beit She'an, we were told, did not attend these bloody shows, which were so exciting for the audiences, and all performed without strobe lights or sound equipment! But the Jews of old Beit She'an certainly went to the baths, though they might have preferred the more austere ones in Tiberias, with its Jewish majority, whose gilded youth used to go to the baths at Hammat Gader, where there was more keif.

We don't seem to learn from history, but perhaps present, bleak Beit She'an may profit from it after the site is dusted and landscaped, and gift shops and restaurants and new boutiques pop up in the wake of the ruins. Meanwhile, one wonders whether the children of Beit She'an are being taught more than the rest of us know about Estori Ha-Parihi's work — his views on medicine, botany, topography, and why Beit She'an was a good place to live.

Kfar Masaryk criticized for censure of member who went to Budapest

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — Kfar Masaryk, the Hashomer Hatzair kibbutz in the Haifa Bayside region, has been sharply denounced for setting itself up as a "People's Tribunal," imposing summary sanctions on one of its members who participated in the leftist "peace" talks with the PLO delegation in Budapest last month.

The sharp censure was made by the kibbutz movement's weekly paper, *Hadaf Hayarok*, whose writer, Oded Lifshitz, takes the kibbutz to task for having decided "just four days after its member Shlomo Moscovitz returned from Budapest" that it would not provide her with legal assistance if she was taken to court on the charge of breaking the law which forbids contact with the PLO.

He notes that this law, recently passed by the Knesset, had been condemned as "despicable" by Mapam. In its "hurry" to condemn Moscovitz, Kfar Masaryk had violated her right to be considered innocent until proven guilty. So far, she had been questioned by the police and no indictment had been issued against her.

By declaring her an offender, Kfar Masaryk had prejudiced her case, while gagging her for forbidding her to speak to the press.

Basing his arguments on legal opinions from kibbutz jurists, Lifshitz holds that a kibbutz is both "the home and the family" of its members and, as such, is duty-bound to stand by them. This includes providing legal as well as medical aid, even if the member has clearly violated the law.

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PERES INTERVIEW

(Continued from Page One)

Peres declined to say anything about the lack or extent of American support and supportive activity on behalf of the conference idea. "I am fighting here, on my own land, in my own theatre. I have never proposed to the Americans to take part in Israeli politics. On the contrary, I say: be objective about [Israeli political] party matters but don't be neutral on the matters of peace. Don't mix the two things."

Regarding Israel's conditions for Soviet participation in the conference, Peres said that "the Americans have now told the Russians that these are [also] American conditions. Mrs. Thatcher has said the same, the whole of the West has lined up in support [of the Israeli conditions]."

Peres reiterated the condition of an exchange of ambassadors but declined to state what size Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union would meet the second Israeli condition, of "open gates." "Certainly many more than [are leaving] now," he said.

Have the Soviets "disappointed" us in their lack of movement towards meeting Israel's conditions? "If you want, I can say they have disappointed. But if you wish, I can also say that they have surprised us [favourably]. They increased the number of exits, they allow Jews to study for the rabbinate, they [re-]opened the synagogues, they've released the Prisoners of Zion, save for one. At the same time, they have disappointed [us]. It's a balance."

Peres added: "Perhaps they think that we too have been a disappointment. They too have complaints. They say, how is it that a small country poses such difficult conditions to a great power? My response to this is: We are not posing conditions that concern a great power. We are posing conditions that concern the small country. We're not posing conditions about what they should do in Afghanistan; we are posing conditions... that concern Israel."

Regarding the conditions — embassies and aliya — Peres says: "You want to participate in making peace between us and the Arabs? First make [your] peace with us. They say that Soviet Jews are an internal Soviet matter. I say: You have the right to care for the Palestinian people? We have the right to

PERES INTERVIEW

look out for the interests of the Jewish people. This is our family, our brothers and sisters. What [connection] is there between you and the Palestinians?"

Lastly, the Soviets argue that Israel wants an international conference that is merely ceremonial. "I say, no, the function of the conference is to give legitimacy to the [bilateral] negotiations, not to replace them. And legitimization is a matter of first-class importance. Talleyrand once said that apart from war, legitimacy is the most important means of foreign policy."

Question: In 1973, Israel agreed to Soviet participation in an international conference in Geneva without making conditions.

"Then, they just came. They were invited, and they came. And then there was mass [Soviet Jewish] emigration, some 40,000 left."

Question: And if now the Soviets were to allow mass emigration?

"I have said that between the two subjects, of re-establishment of ties and aliya, aliya comes first."

But Peres rejected with a flat "no" the possibility of Israel accepting a gradual, graduated process of establishing ties with the Soviets as sufficient to meet Israel's condition. "I accept a graduated process, but not as regards the relations between us and the Soviet Union. Was the severance of relations with us done gradually? What favours are they doing us? All we are talking about — and here Peres quoted Gorbachev — is normalizing our relations."

Peres defined the issues in dispute with the Soviet Union regarding the conference as follows: "They want an on-going conference. We want an international opening and then direct talks."

"Second, and I am not sure they still insist on this, they said that the Palestinian issue must be multilaterally discussed. We say it is a bilateral subject, between us and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation."

Then, there is no agreement on Palestinian representation. And finally there is no agreement on our two conditions. On this they said they would open talks with us."

How does Shamir relate to the Soviet subject? "It interests him. But he remains dogmatically opposed to the international conference concept. He says all the time that we must act on the Russian issue, but I don't know what he

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China's wait-and-see game with Israel

At present, China sees the disadvantages of ties with Israel outweighing the benefits. This could change if Middle East peace talks were launched, argues an expert on Chinese affairs. He is interviewed by Daniel Gavron.

THE CHINESE know very little about Israel and the Jewish people, says Peter Enav, the head of Cosmopolitics, a Jerusalem-based company that advises local businessmen on Asia. Whereas in the West Israel is a primary focus of interest, this is not the case in China and the rest of Asia. "We are entirely outside their cultural experience," he points out.

Israel's foreign policy has been Western-oriented, says Enav. Jerusalem has strong ties with only a handful of Asian countries, and this is worrying, because Asia is growing more important every year. Readers who watched *Mabat Shenit* (Second Look) on Israel Television last week will know what he is talking about: three documentaries showed the impressive economic power of Japan and South Korea.

Israel has diplomatic relations with South Korea, but it closed down its embassy in Seoul several years ago. South Korea, which buys oil from the Arab states and has thousands of its citizens working in the Gulf, is reluctant to allow it to be reopened.

This country has never had relations with China, despite being one of the first countries to recognize the Communist regime which took over in 1949.

As things stand now, China, which has vital interests in the Moslem world, is not anxious to forge ties with Israel; but this could change if there were real prospects for an international peace conference on the Middle East, with the partici-

tion of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Enav, who teaches Chinese at the Hebrew University, came here from the U.S. only four years ago. He has long been a student of Chinese affairs, starting with Chinese studies at the University of Wisconsin and California, during which he spent a year in Taiwan, and going on to serve in a combat unit in Vietnam. He was subsequently at the American Embassy in Thailand, worked as a journalist in Hong Kong, and served on the National Council for U.S.-China Trade in Washington for three years.

An important element of China's foreign policy is the desire to be taken seriously as a great power, he says. A peace conference would be a major event in world diplomacy, and the Chinese would not like to be left out of it.

AT PRESENT, China sees the disadvantages of ties with Israel outweighing the advantages, says Enav. Although there has been a gradual improvement in relations in the past few years, he cautions that this should not be exaggerated.

It is true that in March, Xinhua, the official Chinese news agency, reported a meeting at the UN in New York between Foreign Ministry Director-General Avraham Tamir and Li Luyi, Beijing's permanent UN representative. Before that, meetings between Israeli and Chinese officials had always been denied. This was a significant

change, concedes Enav, but it was within the framework of the United Nations, rather than a strictly bilateral meeting.

The recent visit to China by Rakah leader Meir Wilner should be seen within the framework of the Chinese Communist Party's attempts to improve relations with other Soviet-oriented parties, which deteriorated in the 1960s, at the time of the Sino-Soviet split. Rakah is a Moscow-aligned party, notes Enav, and the Chinese invitation to Wilner was part of the process of Sino-Soviet normalization, although there was probably also a desire to learn more about Israel.

The Tamir and Wilner contacts – and the fact that Israeli businessmen and scientists have visited China in the past few years – are "ripples rather than waves," he suggests. Today, Israelis do enter China on Israeli passports as delegates to international conferences, but although some ordinary tourists have been allowed in, it is not certain that anyone who wants to visit will be able to. Israelis can now send letters to China or phone that country, and that is an improvement on the previous situation. In Enav's opinion, there is reason for "cautious optimism," but no more than that.

HE IS EXTREMELY sceptical of recent media reports of vast business deals between Israel and China. The potential simply isn't there, he points out. "We would have to be competing with Japan, the U.S. and



Peter Enav

(G. Reinblatt/Media)

Europe. Contrary to what some Israeli businessmen seem to think, the Chinese are not waiting with bated breath for Israeli technology."

There are fields in which Israeli expertise might interest the Chinese, he concedes; but this is likely to be a gradual development. China is very interested in Soviet military technology, and Israel is an expert on the subject, having faced Soviet weaponry in several wars. This country has also been successful in upgrading out-of-date weapons systems, and the Chinese would certainly be interested in these techniques.

Enav insists that he has no inside information on this. "I read the papers, the same as you do," he says. "I am not talking because I know

about secret deals, but merely indicating theoretical compatibility."

Israeli expertise in agriculture would also interest Beijing, he believes. The Chinese could certainly learn from Israel's experience in irrigation, pest control, arid-zone farming and solar power; but this is not a sufficient incentive to outweigh the deterrents to closer relations.

CHINA TRADES with the Middle East on a gigantic scale, says Enav. Between 1980 and 1985 Beijing earned \$25 billion from sales to Middle East countries. As China is self-sufficient in oil, it buys little in return and there is a trade imbalance, which means that the earnings are in hard currency.

A lot of the sales are of a military

nature. China is a major arms supplier to Iran. It has also sold huge quantities of equipment to Jordan, which is obviously passing them on to Iraq. Thus, Beijing is "playing both sides of the street" in the Gulf War.

China's trade with the Middle East is larger than its trade with either Europe or the U.S., Enav points out. It is seven times its trade with Africa, and five times its trade with Latin America. Nothing that Israel can offer compares to business on this scale, although the possibility of scientific and technological exchanges should not be counted out.

At the same time, China has adopted an ideological, "Third World" approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Beijing's current stance on relations with this country is very tough: no diplomatic relations unless Israel withdraws from all territory taken in 1967, including East Jerusalem; agrees to Palestinian rights; and pledges to desist from "its policy of aggression and expansion" in the Middle East.

Regardless of the pros and cons, China insists that the PLO take part as an independent delegation. Nevertheless, if an international conference became a real possibility, Beijing might modify its policy to ensure its participation.

Although China officially denies a desire for super power status, proclaiming that the two super powers – the U.S. and the Soviet Union – are the source of all tension in the world, it does want to be regarded as a major player on the world stage. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, it recognizes its rights and responsibilities.

"Beijing does not want to be frozen out of the international conference," says Enav, "and if the entrance-ticket is recognition of Israel, it will reconsider its current line."

Regardless of the pros and cons of the conference itself, Israel can gain huge advantages just by agreeing to the parley, suggests Enav. Ties with China and renewal of ties with the Soviet Union – before the actual talking starts – would be gigantic steps forward for Israel, which is still regarded as illegitimate by much of the Third World.

APART FROM deciding to participate in an international conference, and pursuing a "clever diplomacy" towards that end, there is not very much that Israel can do to improve its relations with China, in Enav's view. The biggest thing that Israel has to offer is a place at the conference table.

Nevertheless, small advances in trade and technological exchange are feasible, possibly through the U.S. Israel must understand how China does business, and look for things to buy as well as to sell. One Chinese product that Israel could purchase is coal.

American relations with the Chinese began on a cultural and sporting level – the so-called "ping-pong diplomacy." Enav does not see immediate progress for Israel in this area, but wonders aloud whether a personality such as Isaac Stern (who is revered in China) might be able to initiate musical exchanges. A tour of China by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra would be a marvellous achievement, he muses, but it is probably more realistic to think in terms of a small chamber group at first.

"The point here is that the Chinese are aware of how little they know about Israel and the Jewish people, and they are beginning to realize our importance," says Enav. He suggests that Israel Radio could start broadcasting to China, noting that "enough talent exists in this country to produce a 15-part radio series in Chinese on the history of Israel."

Above all, stresses the expert, Israelis must learn to be discreet. Israel-China relations are in a very delicate state and the last thing they need is publicity.

"Of course cabinet ministers and government officials want to publicize their achievements, and that is perfectly legitimate. But they must realize that, when they report on their meetings with Chinese officials in the media, they are causing real harm to our relations with Beijing."

In general, Enav pleads for more Asia-consciousness in this country. In the 21st century, he predicts, Asia will be a major centre of economic and political power, and Israel should strive to improve its relations with as many Asian nations as possible.

David Makovsky reports from Washington on new twists in the Irangate affair

Reagan not out of the woods yet

THE WORDS MAY have saved Ronald Reagan's presidency, but there was considerable irony when former National Security Adviser, John Poindexter, answered the central question of the Irangate congressional hearings: what did Reagan know about the diversion of Iranian arms sales profits to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels?

Poindexter said, "the buck stops here," explaining that the decision was his alone and that he intentionally kept the president ignorant, so as to provide the president with "plausible deniability."

The saying "the buck stops here" is associated with former president Harry Truman, who kept that motto on his desk in the Oval Office.

Poindexter's testimony demonstrates an inversion of that principle, and suggests that when the decisions were difficult – and some claim illegal – Reagan abdicated in favour of his subordinates.

Observers have said that with Poindexter's statement – made by a man who briefed the president daily – the hearings have peaked and the eight-month siege of the White House might now begin to lift.

The main issue, perplexing to non-Americans who may be accustomed to greater latitude for national leaders engaged in covert operations, is did Reagan break an American law called the Boland Amendment, which forbade the Administration to offer assistance to the Contras?

Since last November, Reagan has insisted that he had no knowledge of the diversion conducted by his aides in the White House; yet polls show that the majority of the American people think he was lying.

The White House was openly jubilant that Poindexter did not finger Reagan, and they hope public attention will now wane. Even Congressional investigators have been saying that there does not seem to be a "smoking gun" to implicate the president.

The White House justifiably feared the long-time naval staff officer Poindexter most, as he is regarded as the quintessential bureaucrat – never making a move without authorization.

Poindexter testified that he knew Reagan was passionately committed to the Contra cause, and said if Reagan asked, he would have to tell him. Yet, Reagan, true to form, did not ask questions.

HOWEVER, REAGAN is not out of the woods yet. Several questions remain unanswered.

Poindexter freely admitted that upon resigning his position when the story of Irangate broke in November '86, he shredded a presidential document termed a "finding" which sanctioned the sale of Israeli Hawk missiles in November 1985 to Iran, in return for hostages. While Reagan

conceded in a national address last March that his opening to Iran had deteriorated into an "arms-for-hostages" deal, he denied that that had been the "original intent." However, the December '85 finding, which Poindexter said he shredded to save Reagan political embarrassment, said just that – arms for hostages.

Second, Poindexter's statement that he approved the diversion of arms profits to the Contras without the approval of Reagan or any other elected official raises the issue of who makes U.S. foreign policy. It also raises the issue of the nature of the relationship between Congress and Reagan for the remainder of his presidency. Congress has seen a parade of witnesses, especially North, testify that legislators cannot be trusted to maintain the secrecy of covert, foreign operations.

While North and Poindexter have won plaudits for their candid testimony for which they were granted immunity before the congressional panel, the two face criminal investigation by an independent prosecutor.

With the Oliver North Show finished and Poindexter having dealt with the main question, the television networks have agreed to rotate coverage instead of all eliminating their lucrative daytime programming as has been the case for the last 10 days.

FROM AN Israel perspective, the question of presidential deception has taken the heat off other aspects of the Iran-Contra affair. What, for example, were Israel's motives behind the arms sale to Iran?

What was Israel's relationship to the mysterious Iranian arms middleman Ghorbanifar? North says that he still believes and the U.S. assumed Ghorbanifar was an Israeli agent. The Iranian comes across as one of the sleaziest villains in this drama. On the last day of answering questions, North said, Ghorbanifar approached him with an offer of \$1 million bribe to continue covert arm sales operation.

While these secondary issues might be explored in the remaining three weeks of the committee's work, the central question seems to be laid to rest for the moment.

Indeed, the White House thinks North's testimony on behalf of U.S. funding for the Contras was so convincing that it may even ask for more funds in the forthcoming budget. Until last week, it was assumed that future funding prospects were virtually nil.

Vice President George Bush has said the Poindexter testimony represents a "turning-point in the Reagan presidency." Then again, Bush's electoral chances of succeeding Reagan are inextricably linked to the standing of this embattled incumbent.

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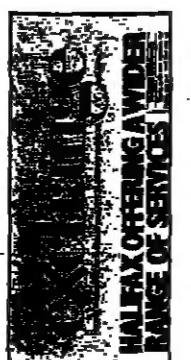
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Aryeh Rubinstein discusses the Jewish Agency's policy on the funding of yeshivot

Open-pocket — even for non-Zionists

MENAHM PORUSH and Rabbi Avraham Shapira of Agudat Yisrael, and Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz of Shas, are breathing easier since the Jewish Agency Assembly last month adopted a new resolution, in place of last year's, on the non-funding of non-Zionist yeshivot and Youth Aliya institutions.

Yated Ne'eman, the *haredi* weekly that is close to Rabbi Eliezer Shach, hailed the Assembly's action as "the abrogation of the evil decree" (*bi'hal ha-gesera*). Technically that is not so. The new resolution retains a key paragraph of the old one. It reads as follows:

"The Jewish Agency should allocate funds only to those Jewish schools, programmes, yeshivot and institutions which... recognize Zionist principles and support the State of Israel as the existing Zionist national homeland of the Jewish people."

Still, there is reason to give more credence to Yated Ne'eman's satisfaction over the course of events than to the well-turned phrases of the resolution and the official protestations that it will be "easier to implement than the old one." Easier not to implement is what they really mean, and what we can now expect is something very close to *de facto* abrogation.

Aviva Lewinsky, Jewish Agency treasurer and chairman of the implementation committee, practically admitted this when he estimated, in an interview with me, that "between 15 and 20" institutions would be found ineligible for Agency funding. Since over 600 institutions and programmes are involved, and since Lewinsky is not known to possess occult powers, this means that he will see to it that only the most extreme anti-Zionist institutions get the axe.

LEWINSKY has taken a lot of flak for his failure to implement last year's resolution. Board of Governors chairman Jerold Hoffberger said that much more could have been accomplished. A draft resolution was proposed ridiculing the committee for having reported to the Board that it "could find no institution, school, yeshiva, or programme which did not meet all the criteria in the resolution."

Taken implementation of the new resolution is likely, if not for 15-20 institutions, then half a dozen. But however low the number, no one next year will be able to throw "criteria" at Lewinsky, for these do not appear in the new resolution.

In order to qualify for funding, under the deleted paragraph, an institution had to "incorporate Zionist

values through the formal curriculum and extra-curricular activities of the educational programmes which include:

- "Celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut;
- "Maintenance of a curriculum which contains the history of the State of Israel;
- "Learning and using Hebrew in recognition of the fact that it is the language of the State of Israel;
- "Appropriate display of the flag; and;
- "Encouragement of service in Israel's armed forces or accepted alternative national service."

The anti-establishment resolution ridiculing the committee was presented by Miriam Gafni, a lawyer and a Conservative Jew, who is active in the Philadelphia Jewish Federation. It faulted the Lewinsky committee for having "engaged in a debate on the merits of the criteria," for having "held hearings to take testimony on the merit of the resolution," and for having "misled the communities concerning the progress on implementation." The resolution therefore charged the Board of Governors with disbanding the committee and with appointing new members and staff to implement it for the 1987/88 school year.

But when the two funding resolutions came up for discussion at the Assembly's closing session, Gafni, in the hope of gaining more support for her, accepted a considerably toned-down amendment of her proposal. This dropped the call for the committee's dismissal, and its criticism of the committee was limited to the following clause: "Whereas the committee... has reported, in spite of common knowledge, [emphasis added] that to date it has found no programmes or institutions which do not meet the criteria..."

The revised Gafni resolution garnered 62 votes, as against 99 for the Lewinsky-supported resolution that eliminated the criteria. That comes to almost 40 per cent of the total, not a bad showing in view of the coalition that had formed against it.

Gafni's complaints about the committee's strange behaviour were well-taken. This was no committee to recommend policy or to investigate some action of an executive body, where the opposition must be represented; this was a committee on implementation. Maybe there was room for jockeying over a strict or lenient interpretation of the criteria (e.g., what constitutes "encouragement" of military service?), but certainly not for questioning the wisdom of the criteria themselves.

Yet, of the four Zionist Executive

representatives on the eight-man committee, two were opposed to the criteria from the start, and it appears, even to the resolution itself. These were the heads of the two Jewish Agency education departments: Yitzhak Mayer (Mizrachi-NRP) and Dr. Eli Tavin (Herut). The other two Zionist members of the committee both represented Labour: Youth Aliya head Uri Gordon, one of the leading advocates of the resolution, and Lewinsky, who at first tried to implement the resolution but changed course a few months ago.

Lewinsky points out, in justification of the committee's failure to accomplish more, that its first meeting was held only in December — although the Assembly passed its resolution in June. He has not explained the reason for the delay.

Rabbi Peretz and Shapira appeared at that first meeting to protest against the resolution. They were not Zionists, they said, nor did they regard the state as "the beginning of the Redemption." But their parties were loyal to the state. Shapira cited to his credit that his carpet enterprise was earning foreign currency for Israel. He also mentioned his friendship with the late Pinhas Sapir, minister of finance and chairman of the Jewish Agency.

THE COMMITTEE decided last February to send to the 676 educational institutions and programmes in Israel that were getting Agency funding a copy of the June 1986 resolution with a request that they sign a declaration that they would meet the criteria. (The figures "597 institutions" and "nearly 650" have also been given, all by Lewinsky's office.) The letters were sent out by the treasurer's office on March 29.

This proved to be a horrible blunder. The left-wing Hakhibutz Ha'arzi called it "McCarthyism." Their Zionism was a matter of common knowledge, they said, and the request they testify to it was an insult. They would sign no "loyalty oath." But Lewinsky placated them, and they did submit a satisfactory statement.

Not so with the *hesder* yeshivot, whose students combine yeshiva study with army service. They would have no truck with the resolution, which, they claimed, had been initiated by the Reform movement with the object of denying funds to the *haredi* yeshivot (or, according to a different version, to Tora institutions). Furthermore, they maintained, the Agency's funds had been contributed by the Jewish people and it had no right to cut off one group or another.

But it is not necessarily cynical to assume that, basically, this was yet another instance of the Mizrachi-NRP going along with the *haredim*, in violation of their own principles. It is also likely that the Mizrachi politicians were discomfited by the action of the *hesder* rabbis, but had to swallow the *fait accompli*.

The position taken by the *hesder* rabbis was endorsed by Hatzofeh, the NRP daily, and by the two Mizrachi representatives on the WZO Executive, Yitzhak Mayer and Eliezer Shefer. "The Jewish Agency is a funding body, not an ideological arena," Mayer explained.

It was left to Ne'eman's Tora Va-Avoda, of the modern-Orthodox camp, to defend the Jewish Agency's resolution and to take issue with the *hesder*-rabbis' action. "An abysmal blood separates the *hesder* yeshivot from the *haredi* yeshivot," they said in a statement. "The Zionist movement is not obliged to finance [institutions that teach] IDF draft evaders, ignore Yom Ha'atzmaut, and carry on against it an aggressive ideological and organizational offensive."

In short, the Mizrachi-NRP bears much more responsibility for the non-implementation of the resolution than has generally been understood.

Yitzhak Mayer maintains that last year's resolution was impossible to implement. Trying to do so would have meant hearings, investigations, McCarthyism. The Agency does not have the tools for that, and it would create "a terrible war." And if that is not enough, he "would simply ob-

ject, as an Orthodox Jew, to our holding hearings."

As for Agudat Yisrael, in no way can it be established that they are non-Zionist or that they actually educate their pupils against the Jewish state, Mayer maintains. They do observe Yom Ha'atzmaut, in their own way. (But Natorei Karta children do not frequent a particular synagogue where I often find "Yom Ha'atzmaut" inked out of the list, in the Rina Yisrael siddur, of festive days on which Tabanus is not said. Where do the culprits study?)

If the criteria were implemented, Mayer says, Esh Hatorah and Ohr Sameah yeshivot would probably not qualify. But they have done wonderful work in promoting aliya, and in bringing Jews back to the fold, this with the help of Jewish Agency funding. Should that be stopped? A group from Brazil, totally alienated from Judaism, was brought to Esh Hatorah and would go back as Zionists. Shouldn't that be encouraged?

Youth Aliya funds about 2,000 children in ultra-Orthodox institutions, Mayer says. And "you don't conduct a war on the backs of children." That argument I consider specious. It makes sense only if one sees the resolution as aiming to punish the institution or the political party behind it, when it is actually an effort to fight anti-Zionist indoctrination in Agency-funded institutions.

Mayer's best argument is the one about the rigidity of the criteria, and other members of the funding panel expressed a similar view. These include the panel's chairman, Dr. Herzl Spiro, of Milwaukee, and Carmela Kalmanson, national vice-president of Hadassah and slated to be its next president.

"What about a yeshiva that isn't Zionist but encourages aliya?" Spiro asked. "Is it Jewish fair play to deny them funds, or are we being arbitrary? Are we dealing with the substance of Zionism or only with forms?"

Kalmanson spoke in a similar vein, and said that if an institution met all the criteria except those on the flag and on teaching Hebrew perhaps that was good enough. It

made more sense and was fairer to examine the institution and its programme *in toto* than mechanically to tick off the criteria.

What neither of them made clear is why they did not incorporate these sensible ideas in the revised resolution, instead of eliminating the criteria altogether. Spiro even claimed, at the Assembly's final plenary session, that the new resolution was much stronger than last year's, and not a "watered-down" version (as it had been described in that morning's *Jerusalem Post*).

Presumably, he meant that the old resolution had such an "overkill" tendency that no self-respecting committee would implement it. But considering the make-up of the committee, and its procrastination in the past year, was it wise to frame the new resolution in such broad terms as to enable the committee itself to determine policy?

When I asked Lewinsky to explain how, if the old resolution had been unimplementable, the new *sans* criteria would be implementable, he brushed me off with: "I could have lived with the original version."

This was the same Lewinsky who said at the Assembly panel on funding that even the most Zionist of yeshivot does not include "history of the State of Israel" in its curriculum. And who noted at the same forum, with apparent agreement, the argument of *haredi* yeshiva heads that the deferment of their students from military service was in accordance with the law of the land.

"Shas and Agudat Yisrael are not to be ignored, and we must conduct a dialogue with them," Lewinsky told the panel.

Had he thought of the *double entendre* here, he surely would have chosen his words more carefully. We must not forget that Lewinsky, like Mayer and Tavin and other Agency department heads, are political appointees. And Lewinsky, in addition, wants Labour to nominate him for the chairmanship of the WZO-Agency executive. Ergo, Shas and Agudat Yisrael should not be ignored, not only by the Jewish Agency, but also by Labour or by Lewinsky himself.

A sidelight: Shimon Peres was in Europe during the week of the Assembly's session. He returned on Monday night, June 29. And the next morning he met with Lewinsky.

THERE IS a third level of dialogue with the *haredim*, and this was the theme of Dr. Hertzl Fishman, who represents the Conservative movement on the Jewish Agency executive.

Addressing the same panel, he said that the crucial question is not whether Agudat Yisrael and Shas recognize the State of Israel (which they do, at least *de facto*), but whether they recognize Jewish peoplehood, whether they accept the concept of a pluralistic *Klal Yisrael*.

"We owe it to Jewish history to begin a dialogue with the institutions [in question] in the hope of bringing them closer to the concepts of *Klal Yisrael* and *Ahavat Yisrael*," Fishman said. "Today, we don't even talk to them."

In the name of peoplehood, he wants them to encourage their students to do military service. For Israel is a nation-state: that's what Zionism is all about. One practical implication of *haredi* acceptance of the peoplehood concept is that they must stop vilifying the non-Orthodox.

"We have to live with them, and so will our children and grandchildren. It is in our interest to draw them closer to the state," Fishman said. "But an educational process is called for, and we must be patient. Nor may we approach the matter with a sense of vindictiveness."

What about institutions that will not dialogue? They should not get Agency allocations, Fishman says. And those who dialogue and dialogue and let it go at that? "We must give them a reasonable amount of time, two years, say. If we haven't convinced them by then, their funding should be stopped, too."

We have mentioned Uri Gordon, who is Lewinsky's rival for the Labour nomination for chairman of the WZO-Agency executive. Some say he initiated last year's resolution; he denies it. Four months ago he resigned from the committee, a step that has not been publicized.

Gordon revealed it to me in an interview, but refused to explain his reasons. My guess: when Labour decided to block the implementation of the resolution, Gordon could not back the party. But neither did he want to be a party to the doubletalk that was going on in the committee.

He believes that the Jewish Agency and the Zionist Organization should support only institutions with a Zionist outlook and whose attachment to the state is absolute. He does not go along with those who would deny funding only to institutions that are actively anti-Zionist. That they're non-Zionist is enough for him.

"The criteria should have been retained," Gordon says. "The problem is a real one, and we can't escape it."

Family at odds

Michel Zlotowski, in Paris, finds concern among European Zionists

"WE DON'T NEED speeches, we don't need *shikhim* — what we do need is true collaboration and a true dialogue with Israel." The speaker is Theo Klein, chairman of the European Jewish Congress and the *Conseil Représentatif des Juifs de France* (Crif), the roof body representing French Jewish organizations.

Klein's words point to a deep crisis in relations between the Diaspora's third largest Jewish community — between 500,000 and 700,000 strong — and the Jewish Agency.

Links between *shikhim* from the Jewish Agency in Paris and Jewish community leaders are almost nonexistent. Eli Cohen, formerly in charge of Aliya at the Agency, sent, prior to his departure from Paris, a letter to some reporters in which he complained at length about the lack of Zionist commitment of community leaders — the reason, according to him, for the negligible numbers of French Jews going on aliya.

However, Theo Klein charged: "The Jewish Agency is standing be-

tween us and Israel. "This organization had its utility before the establishment of the state," Klein told *The Jerusalem Post*. "But it has not succeeded — has not even attempted — to effect the changes needed for adapting to current circumstances."

"Speaking in the name of the Jewish communities of Europe, as loyal citizens of those countries, who are at the same time attached to Israel by historical, spiritual, cultural and emotional links, we do need to have useful relations with the Jewish State. But our communities, as such, are not represented within the Jewish Agency."

"I recognize the important role of the Appeal, through which we express our concrete solidarity with Israel," says Klein, but adds: "The Appeal should be an integrated part of the efforts of each community, not something exterior to them. The time has come to rethink all these things."

"I am not criticizing the people

working for the Jewish Agency," Klein hastens to say. "They are part of a system they try to run in the best possible way."

"Before the creation of the state all the Zionist parties were represented in the Agency. But the Zionist Congress has since been replaced by the Knesset, the Jewish executive by the government of Israel. It is the system itself that is totally obsolete and has to be changed."

"LET'S TAKE just one example," continues Klein. "There are political aspects to our relations with Israel. We are called upon to explain and support Israeli positions as far as is possible for citizens aware of the national interests of our respective countries. In order to do this, we must be allowed to understand Israel's policy."

Whenever Israeli ministers visit France, says Klein, communication between them and the leaders of French Jewry appears to be strictly one-way. "They do the talking, and

we do the listening. We lack the institutions and the framework for a true dialogue."

"True Zionists say that we are living in the *Gola* and that our only duty is to leave it. But let's be pragmatic: the likelihood of the Jews departing our countries is very low."

French Jewry is very much aware that Israel needs aliya, but, says Klein, the task of encouraging aliya would be best left to the communities, and not, he stresses, to the *shikhim*. "They spend two or three years in our countries — about the time it takes them to adjust; then they leave."

Where French Jewry does require assistance from Israel is in Jewish education. Without such education, Klein points out, there is unlikely to be any upswing in aliya from France over the next 20-30 years.

KLEIN HAS concrete suggestions for revamping the institutions

mediating between Israel and Diaspora communities.

"Our various communities should send their own representatives to Israel. These representatives would be the liaison officers between their communities and Israel."

The French-Jewish community leader was concerned to stress that the role of French Jewry has not been a passive one. "With the agreement of the World Jewish Congress and with the active support of the communities of Western and Eastern Europe, we set up the European Jewish Congress. This body is constantly growing in importance," he said.

Klein hopes that progress towards a decision to refashion the Jewish Agency will be made when the European Jewish Congress convenes in Israel this December. "I hope it will show the courage and the imagination that our communities are calling for."

The leader of the European Jew-

ish Congress and Crif agrees that the World Jewish Congress would have been the natural choice for launching the new dialogue between Israel and the Diaspora. But, he says, for various reasons this is ruled out.

"In Europe, the EJC represents most of the communities. In the U.S. many of the organizations for the WJC are too far apart to represent the American Jewish community as a whole. We Europeans can only wish that the Americans were prepared to exert the same efforts that we have."

"Never have our communities been so close and attached to Israel as they are today. And yet, never have they been so detached from the Zionist movement. One has to have the courage to confront this reality. There are remarkable people in France who do their best to carry the Zionist flag. Why not try to help them by encouraging the communities to feel they are involved in

the process born with the State of Israel?"

"The elections for Zionist organizations held in our respective countries are somewhat ridiculous. Those who vote are far less numerous than those on the voting lists. I am neither inscribed on a list, nor do I vote, and yet, I consider myself at least as Zionist as many of those who do cast their ballot."

"The Jewish Agency with its Zionist parties is like an obstacle, a wall, a hindrance to the desire of the communities to be involved in things concerning Israel and the means of doing so. Forty years after the creation of the State, I think this whole year should be dedicated to building new relations between Diaspora communities and Israel," said Klein appealing to Jewish communities all over the world, and especially to the U.S. communities to act together to prevail upon Israel to open a new dialogue and bring about the long-overdue changes in the Zionist organizations.

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Alexander Zvielli considers a new study of the "Final Solution," and considers particularly the role of the German army in the Balkans — where Kurt Waldheim served — in the massacre of the Jews

Why Waldheim preferred evasion

"IN 1941, Nazi Jewish policy had reached an impasse" writes Prof. Christopher Browning in a recent work on Hitler's "Final Solution." "Military and diplomatic success had brought millions of Jews into the German sphere, while the already limited possibilities for Jewish emigration were constricted further by the outbreak of war...the imminent invasion of Russia posed the same dilemma once again — further territorial conquest meant more Jews. At some point in the spring of 1941, Hitler decided to break this vicious circle..."

Germany embarked on *Vernichtungskrieg* — a war of destruction on Russia. All customs and international

laws concerning war and occupation were to be disregarded. In the fall of 1941, Wehrmacht firing squads, assisted by local police, shot all the male adult Jews in Serbia. Women and children were gassed later.

Browning explains that the Wehrmacht participation in the role in the murder of the Serbian Jews has not yet been sufficiently clarified in scholarship nor as regards judicial proceedings. In Case VII against the Wehrmacht Balkan generals the American military tribunal in Nuremberg ruled that German reprisal policy in Serbia constituted a war crime in itself and hence did not distinguish between the Wehr-



macht's executions of Serbs and Jews.

A post-war German court ruled that Wehrmacht's reprisal policy "had not been criminal" even when the victims were Jews. The tribunal conveniently ruled that the army "had been duped" by the SS into shooting Jews "unwittingly." It ruled out a "racial motive." It thus absolved the Wehrmacht from premeditated murder as defined by

German law. Charges against German men and officers who served in the Balkans were dropped. One German court delightedly halted its own investigation. Other similar cases were dropped accordingly.

Browning firmly believes that although the deliberate murder of Serbian Jews by the Wehrmacht was carried out within the framework of a reprisal policy which developed in response to partisan activities, the

Wehrmacht shot Jewish hostages en masse solely because they were Jews. The resulting massacre of Jews was, according to Browning, the responsibility of the Wehrmacht's military commanders in Serbia, not the local SS.

While an analysis of the Balkan massacres forms only a small part of Browning's research, this argument is of particular importance today, because of the arguments advanced in Kurt Waldheim's defence and the protestations of former Austrian Wehrmacht men and officers who served in the Balkans. The Wehrmacht's hands are by no means as clean as they are trying to prove. In the Balkans in general, and in Serbia in particular, it was the Wehrmacht and not the SS which was responsible for the maintenance of "law and order." It was the Wehrmacht and not the SS which executed the Jews. Noting that "in the Balkans life counts for nothing," the German army staff archivist Ernst Wissmann wrote: "Up until the end of August a total of approximately 1,000 Communists and Jews had been shot or publicly hanged and the houses of the guilty had been burned down."

THE WEHRMACHT officers accepted the Nazi ideology which held that Jews and Communists were two identical sides of the same coin. The Jews were the enemy and it was their professional duty and act of patriotism to liquidate them as quickly as possible. In the wake of their spectacular victory in the West in 1940, the German officer corps quietly accommodated itself to the systematic violation of international law and the Geneva Conventions. There was no longer any lingering reticence about participating in the mass-murder programme which led

to and fulfilled the demands of the Final Solution. The facts of Wehrmacht activity in the Balkans speak for themselves.

Browning, an associate professor of history at Pacific Lutheran University and author of *The Final Solution and the German Foreign Office* presents us with a long list of German reprisal executions. While Marshal Keitel required all his military commanders in occupied areas to keep hostage Communists, nationalists and middle-class democrats, his officers had long accepted the identification of Communist with Jew. They thus methodically went about executing "all Jews."

On October 9 and 11, 1941 a firing squad from a communications unit shot 499 Jews. Its commander, Lieutenant Walter Lippke, noted that the men returned from their first execution "satisfied" (*befriedigt*), but unfortunately could not continue after the second day because of an assignment in the field. Another unit finished the execution.

On October 16, 1941, Colonel Max Pemsel assigned the task of providing a firing squad for the 1,600 Jewish "hostages" to the 734th regiment in Belgrade, in full knowledge that his victims were the incarcerated Jews of Belgrade. He wrote:

"In the last eight days I had 2,000 Jews and 200 Gypsies shot in accordance with the ratio of 1:100 for bestially murdered German soldiers, and a further 2,000, likewise almost all Jews will be shot in the next eight days. The 716th division's Major-General Hoffman shot on October 17, 1736 men and 19 Communist women."

Browning's research on the Final Solution shows that if most Germans were not fanatical or "paranoid" anti-Semites, they were "mild," latent or passive anti-Semites, for

whom Jews had become a "depersonalized," abstract and alien entity beyond human empathy. Thus the "Jewish Question" became a legitimate subject of state policy requiring a solution. There can be little doubt that an overwhelming majority of German officers and soldiers serving in the Balkans welcomed reprisals as instruments of genocide.

The Balkan reprisals were never a highly guarded military secret. On the contrary, they were perceived as a warning to the population. There can be little doubt that they were public knowledge among all the men and officers of the Wehrmacht. Mass murder had become commonplace in the German army from the Adriatic to the Arctic Circle.

While there are other serious charges against Waldheim, the Serbian Jewish massacres explain why Kurt Waldheim lied about his wartime activities and was so reluctant to disclose the particulars of his Balkan service. This is also the reason why he gained so much support from former Wehrmacht men and officers.

The German courts accepted the claim that the Wehrmacht was duped by the SS. In other words, they were duped by Nazi ideology and propaganda. Browning's research indicates that this claim doesn't hold water. In the Balkans the Wehrmacht wholeheartedly endorsed the reprisal policy which in turn exploited for the early implementation of the Final Solution. Jews were first shot and later gassed, with the full cooperation of the Wehrmacht.

"FATAL MONTHS — Essays on the Emergence of the Final Solution, by Christopher R. Browning. Holmes and Meier Publishers, Inc. New York/London, 111pp. \$4.95.

Vatican puts the clock back

Inge Lederer-Gibel

ONE OF the first questions that Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee asked me during a job interview in 1972, was how I got along with Christians. This was a perfectly legitimate question, for my initial position in the Interreligious Affairs Department he then headed called for skill not only in designing and implementing a programme to better expose Christian leaders to Israeli reality, but, hopefully, to make friends for the Jewish state and the Jewish people.

By the time I made aliyah I took pride in my contribution and was grateful to those who taught me to believe in the possibility of Jewish-Christian rapprochement. Jewish leaders who pioneered in the field of interreligious dialogue, especially Rabbi Tanenbaum and his gifted associate Judith Banki, at the time when Pope John XXIII "opened the windows" of the Roman Catholic Church via Vatican II, convinced me that a new beginning was possible, in spite of ugly history, in spite of my gut feelings. But Rabbi Tanenbaum had not asked me how I felt about Christians.

I still admire and respect the work of these two former colleagues and don't regret the energy — no nine to five job this — I poured into our joint efforts. As a life-long Jewish and Zionist activist I was, in a sense, "doing" interreligious dialogue before I knew its name.

But while I was sometimes accused of being too dovish on the

Palestinian question, I was as frequently criticized by those who thought I was too hawkish with Christian "friends of Israel," particularly evangelists and conservative Catholics, who seemed too often to express their love for us by their expectation that we would fulfil their theological agenda.

In the case of the Catholics, as one who became a refugee from Nazi Austria as a child, I was never able to forget that the head of the Church in Austria, Cardinal Innitzer, personally welcomed Hitler to Vienna. This memory, and that of a cheering population, overwhelmingly Catholic, who celebrated the return of their much-beloved native son by immediately implementing measures against their Jewish fellow-citizens, severely tested my faith in dialogue.

Moreover, the U.S. entered with its decimated family — without the loved ones who suffered and perished in Dachau, Buchenwald, Auschwitz and Theresienstadt — was a different place than my American-born colleagues experienced. As poor refugees, stripped of everything but our lives, we lived in one Jewish-ethnic Catholic neighborhood after another, my parents eking out a living in shabby little

grocery stores, working 18 hours a day, seven days a week, except for Yom Kippur.

For this my parents were called "miserly, thieving kikes" by the church-attending people to whom they extended easy credit, and I was taunted, and often beaten, for "killing God."

My suspicion of fundamentalism and religious day schools was honed sharply in those days, as I was, for sometimes the parochial school priests and nuns who shaped the minds of my little tormentors would come to visit them after school. If it was a day when my presence on the playground was tolerated, I could hear for myself, in the words of these teachers and mentors, remarks that were only slightly different than what we had left behind in Austria.

Many of my colleagues, and certainly many other Jews, not excluding Israelis, always thought I carried memory a bit too far when it came to Austria. After all, it was invaded by the Germans, wasn't it?

Surely I was exaggerating when I said that there were still more Nazi war criminals, free and thriving there, than in all the rest of Europe? Surely I was eccentric never to visit the "beautiful" city filled with cul-

ture and *schlag* where I was born? Surely — and I remember this with particular pain — I was completely out of line to assert that Kurt Waldheim had to be suspected as a former Nazi, and that I needed no harder evidence than his refusal to cover his head at Yad Vashem, which he visited soon after attaining the top UN post?

SHORTLY before I left AJC and the U.S. behind, the new New York Cardinal, John O'Connor, came to an AJC meeting and expressed his views, likening abortion to the Holocaust. A Catholic spokesman, considered "our real friend on Israel," defended the cardinal's position.

When I argued the point, I was criticized for being too suspicious of "our friends." The people "we really have to worry about," I was told, are the "PLO-loving liberal Christians," both in the Catholic and Protestant worlds. And surely I made too much of a fuss when the new Polish pope visited that symbol of darkness, Auschwitz, and couldn't bring himself to say the word "Jews."

I continue to believe in dialogue, with anyone who will talk with us, for we are a small people, a small nation — *ein breitra*. But the Jewish

partners in such dialogue, particularly with Christians, must also speak for those six million who did not survive the silence of the churches (with shining but extremely limited exceptions).

Blessed be those who will not opt for "quiet diplomacy" when the metaphorical hands of the Church are still stained with the blood of the Inquisition, forced conversions, inciting to pogroms, and far more cases of collaboration with our enemies than acts of mercy toward us, not to speak of the grave charges about Vatican involvement in procuring false identification and passports to speed the most infamous of the infamous on their way to safety in Latin America.

And with no metaphor needed, it can truly be said that the soil of Austria reeks of Jewish blood, and all the loveliness of its countryside cannot cover the stench, particularly as long as that nation is permitted to pose as victim, rather than accepting responsibility, as a partner to the crime.

THERE ARE Catholic leaders, women and men, whose struggle to fulfil the legacy of John XXIII I admire, and whom I trust. John Paul II and Cardinal O'Connor are not

among them. When the cardinal wails of a coming Catholic backlash against the Jews, he is simply confirming my misgivings.

After the death of Pope John XXIII — a *tzadik* who saved Jewish children, who became Pope too late and died too soon thereafter, and who should be mourned by us as he is by the best of his flock — a priest told an editor friend of mine that John XXIII had planned a special prayer to be inserted into the next year's Good Friday service, to be read in every church in the world, a prayer asking forgiveness of the Jewish people for the wrongs done us by the Church over the centuries.

Instead, the clock has taken an ominous turn back. We are faced with Church leaders who proposed establishing a convent on a site consecrated by our blood, who plan to elevate to sainthood as a "Catholic martyr," a woman who was killed for the crime of being a Jew, regardless of her own rejection of Judaism; a cordial welcome with full pomp and ceremony is extended to a suspected Nazi war criminal by the pope, and Jews are warned, not too subtly, that we'd better sublimate our pain and rage in a nice quiet joint prayer service... or... what... they won't love us any more?

What a strange people we are. Wealthy Austrian Jews would rather live in a land which all admit is still overwhelmingly anti-Semitic than put their lives and resources to work in the Jewish state... Other Jews spend money on automobiles symbolizing the Nazi elite and enjoy music festivals in places where celebrations were held when the last Jew was dragged away. And some of us, in our desperate and admirable search for peace, put our trust in an Arab king whose entire state apparatus, including prime-time TV, was recently devoted to glorifying a smirking Waldheim.

At the same time, we refuse to talk to a much more recent enemy, the PLO, which represents, whether we like it or not, the aspirations of most Palestinians, the only people to whom Israel does in fact owe something.

Against them, even the most bloodthirsty terrorist they have spawned, we have a very efficient security and defence system. Against the Catholic Church, for the best part of 2,000 years — the one essential element in history without which there would have been no Holocaust — we are defenceless.

And to King Hussein, with his Austrian friend, we want to give a gift that belongs to another people, a people with whom we must achieve peace for our own ethical Jewish survival. Perhaps we need to reorder our priorities for partners in dialogue.

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I WAS DELIGHTED to see the reply to my article of June 14 (A Little Less Green, Please) by two foresters, one formerly of the JNF, the other of the Agriculture Ministry (June 26, Separating the Trees from the Wood), since my intention was to stir up debate.

I was disappointed, however, that Moshe Kolar and Rene Karschon devoted their efforts to casting doubts on my credibility, suggesting between the lines that anyone who dares question any aspect of forestry policy in Israel, or the record of the JNF, is an "elitist," possibly an anti-Zionist, and perhaps a dangerous lunatic as well.

In fact, I think it's remarkable that the JNF has afforested some 700,000 dunams of shallow soils in the last four decades. Still, I hold that there is plenty of room for discussion concerning what to do from this point on. In particular, I am trying to make the simple point that what succeeds in one part of the country doesn't necessarily succeed in another.

Since I am a botanist and plant ecologist trained in three of the leading universities in the U.S. and two in Israel, my opinion is certainly not based on emotion alone.

I should, perhaps, have described myself as a botanist specializing in desert, Mediterranean and tropical plants of economic use, especially trees, with over 12 years' experience in Israel, North America and South America.

For the last seven years, I have been in charge of plant introduction at a university-affiliated research institute, dealing with new plant species for potential use in agriculture, horticulture and forestry in the arid and semi-arid parts of the country.

In the past decade I have visited and worked in over 25 countries, the majority of them predominantly Mediterranean or desert in character.

But for purposes of the current discussion, I speak simply as a citizen.

While the two foresters define land-use on public lands as "a highly technical matter," I maintain quite the contrary: it is an absolutely fundamental issue affecting all segments of society. Therefore technicians should not be the only ones con-

sulted when policy decisions are to be made.

Kolar and Karschon complain of "constant heckling" by "elitist critics," when in fact what the JNF usually gets is unqualified praise for their efforts, including afforestation; the angry and (forgive me) somewhat ludicrous official reply to my article just goes to show how little used JNF foresters are to dealing with criticism.

Earlier this year, the JNF hosted a debate on the subject of their current plans to plant 5,000 dunams of the central Negev highlands; clearly some people in the upper echelons of the JNF are interested in broader discussion of their work. I believe the public should be consulted as well.

If the foresters' article is any basis for judgement, we can look forward to the next 700,000 dunams slated for afforestation looking very much like the existing 700,000. This despite the fact that with 170,000,000 pines and eucalyptus planted, we're already in the enviable position of having approximately 42.5 pine trees (and/or eucalyptus) per capita, under which to conduct our weekend picnics. I would have thought that more than enough to satisfy any picnicer's needs.

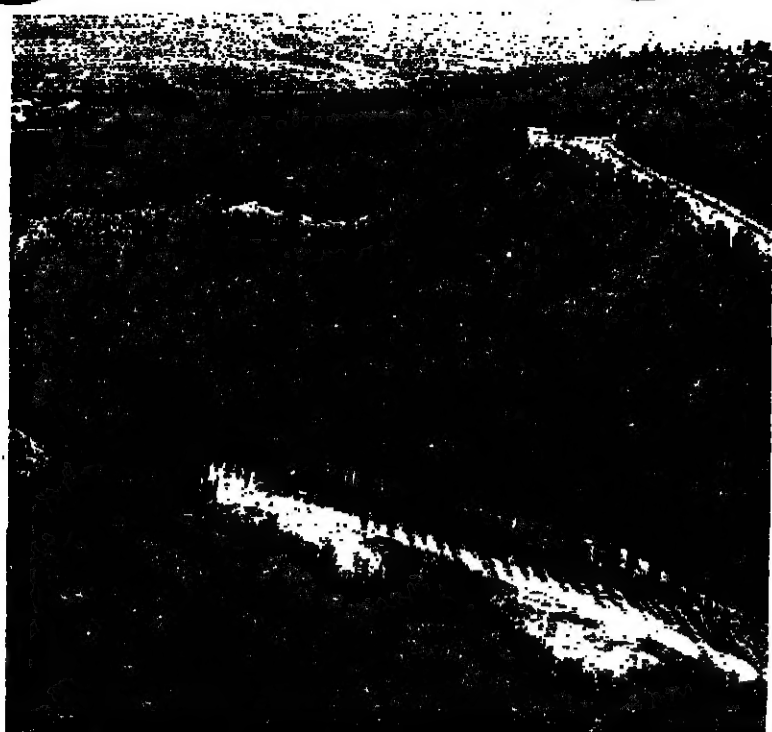
Still, to reiterate, I am not arguing for the destruction of existing pine plantations. If some people really do like to picnic in them, that's fine with me. If some herds of sheep are led to graze there (in the north only), that's OK with me too. Besides, they supply our current national need for plywood, and provide the Beduin, and many Jewish families, with a lot of firewood as well.

I'm simply arguing for trying some different things, in the next 20 or 30 years, rather than just doing more of the same. And most importantly, since the issue is not just which species are planted, but how they are to be planted, and how thickly, I would point out again that what works well for the far north of the country probably doesn't work as well in the center or the south.

As an example, our foresters certainly know, but the general public may not, that there are not one or two but over 100 species of eucalyptus. The pine or eucalyptus that

Pining for change

James Aronson
makes the case
for changing the
JNF's policy
of afforestation.



does well in the Carmel region or the Hula valley is probably not the one best suited to the northern Negev or the Arava.

Likewise, the average density of 60-120 trees per dunam used in the north should perhaps be cut by half or more in the south. If planted more densely in the south, a certain amount of natural thinning - i.e., die-out - takes place, leaving a smaller number in the end. Yet the 60-70 years' life of Jerusalem Pine in the north, where it enjoys 600 - 1,000mm. annual rainfall, will in most cases not be achieved by the same species in the Negev, which has less than 200mm. mean annual rainfall.

Another important point not previously brought out in this argument is that a major reason for the scale (and the nature) of the tree-plantings carried out in the first two decades of the state was to provide gainful employment for large numbers of unskilled immigrants.

Although that situation no longer

prevails, the planting practices and overall design of the forests have changed little. It seems that it is difficult for the JNF administrators to implement real changes that will filter down and be reflected in the efforts of the managers, in-house landscape architects, and the workers themselves.

YET ANOTHER point on which the two foresters took issue with me was my description of most JNF forests as "monochromatic." Their comment was that as a botanist, I ought to know that almost all plants are green. Well, almost all skies and seas are blue: does that mean they look alike? Is the green of the pine the same as that of the Judas tree?

In any case, I also used the more technical term "monospecific" to describe the artificial forests, and I would have expected professionals to relate to that term rather than the other, which was intended for the general public.

They completely ignored an issue relating to monospecific plantations of any kind, which is the danger of insect plagues or host-specific diseases attacking the plantation and reaching catastrophic proportions before any kind of control measure can be carried out.

Indeed, as many people know, the pine plantations and even scattered individual pines throughout Israel have been subject to frequent attack by insects - a caterpillar and an aphid - which can cause great damage to the trees and, in the case of the former, to people. A team of workers at the Volcani Institute is currently introducing new lines of Jerusalem Pine that may be resistant to the aphid, but an additional way to fight the spread of these pests might be to interplant the pines with other kinds of trees, as they would occur in a natural forest.

The weakest point in the foresters' rebuttal is their discussion of agriculture and its place in Israel. "It is

universally accepted that agriculture is essentially a monoculture..." they assert.

I'm afraid my two colleagues are about 30 years behind the times on this; an unswerving trend toward increasingly monocultural practices is now recognized as one of the most serious problems of modern agriculture. Numerous attempts, particularly in tropical and subtropical latitudes, are being directed at reversing this trend, and at finding economically viable alternatives.

One of the scientific groups most called on to help find such alternatives is none other than plant and animal ecologists. In many cases, ecologists are finding that traditional forms of agriculture - involving mixed plantings rather than monocropping, and with much smaller capital and energy inputs - are far more sustainable than industrial-scale agriculture as practiced today.

In fact, the traditional agriculture practiced in the Mediterranean region was and is polycultural, not monocultural. The landscape of carobs, olives, almonds and grapes I described in my previous article, with annual crops worked by hand between the trees, is a good example of this.

I should have made it clear that this landscape is not created by a people who do it for afforestation, but rather as an appropriate form of low-input, sustainable agriculture. This is also the reason it looks "right": it's a case of people adapting themselves over generations to a given landscape.

By the same token, the uncontrolled cutting and grazing also practiced in many parts of Israel in the past, and, indeed, in many Mediterranean and particularly semi-desert regions, is a classic example of people giving insufficient thought to the future.

TOGETHER with an agronomist (Harrie Lovenstein of the Blaustein Institute for Desert Research), and one of Israel's very few professional research foresters (Yehiel Zohar, of the Volcani Centre), I have been working for the past three years developing desert models of an old approach to land use which has recently acquired a new name - agroforestry. This is essentially the use of

trees and annual crops together in a single, integrated system.

In arid and semi-arid regions, it is an idea whose potential has only recently begun to be explored.

I mention it here only to emphasize the fact that the old concept of agriculture and forestry as separate activities with no common ground is coming under question today. This is a result of discoveries in the new science of ecology, and of failures of many agriculture, forestry and water-engineering projects of grand scale, introduced with high hopes and insufficient preparation, in developing countries.

FINALLY, I would like to draw the Israeli public's attention to the fact that, in glaring contrast to the huge number of professional researchers and technicians working in agriculture in this country, there are only four professional foresters in the Department of Natural Resources at the Central Agricultural Research Institute at Volcani. They are all excellent men with good ideas and, as usual, not much money to work with. In the JNF itself, there are no more than four European-trained foresters, and not a single researcher.

This despite the fact that the JNF reportedly has over \$15 million a year for its forestry activities - from the Israel Lands Administration and from donations from abroad. At the same time, highly-qualified agricultural scientists throughout the country are forced to squabble like children over the dwindling sums available for agricultural research.

What, then, can we see as the future of professional forestry in Israel, from the personnel point of view? Why is there not one university in the country that offers a degree of any sort in the field?

In sum, the JNF foresters have a great deal of experience and knowledge, and a monumental amount of good work has been done to date. But let us keep going forward, and let us keep revising our afforestation policy in view of experience gained in each part of the country, of new information acquired from abroad, and, above all, in light of present realities and future needs.

ON THE PASSES issued to journalists covering military maneuvers in eastern Turkey last month were the words: "This is contagious till 30th June 1987."

At first it was assumed to be a Turkish malapropism. The Turkish words for "valid" and "infectious" are similar.

But after a while one began to wonder whether the sentence might actually mean what it said. For so sensitive was the Turkish army about contacts with outsiders that one might well have been considered the carrier of an infectious disease.

The Turks were equally determined to keep to an absolute mini-

mum any communication between 5,500 Nato troops sent from western Europe and the local population for whose benefit they were supposed to be there.

The result was that one of the principal objectives of the exercise, to involve the local population in a demonstration of togetherness in eastern Turkey, where there is a 375-mile border with the Soviet Union, was thwarted.

The non-Turkish troops were members of Nato's multi-national "Rapid Deployment Force," who were practising their role, namely to rush to threatened extremities of the Nato area in times of tension.

With Allies like these...

London Observer Correspondent Ian Mather goes to Erzurum in Eastern Turkey and finds that the Turks are not the most cooperative of Nato allies.

The idea is that, as a political signal to the Soviet Union, the mobile force travels around the threatened area in a highly visible manner, showing their national flags, taking part in military parades and shooting competitions, and talking to local people.

Not so in Turkey, where the Nato force found itself isolated and circumscribed. "I'm very frustrated," said Major Steve McKinnon, deputy commander of 120 U.S. airborne troops. "I don't think the Turkish military understand the meaning of deterrence."

McKinnon's troops had been told by the Turks to camp in a beautiful, high, lavender-filled valley surrounded by snow-capped mountains. They were surrounded also by Turkish troops armed with live ammunition, who peered down on them from the nearby hills, keeping the local people out and the Americans in.

The Americans objected. The Turks replied that they were there to protect them. The Americans, members of an elite force, and trained killers to a man, asked the Turks to explain who was threatening them. The Turks refused to say. They also refused to remove their soldiers.

"We are not able to meet the local people," complained McKinnon. "The Turkish military have imposed restrictions on us. We are not even allowed to go out and buy bread without being accompanied by a Turkish liaison officer."

Turkish paranoia is at its zenith over maps. In Turkey all maps are classified, apart from large-scale

road maps for tourists which show only the barest topographical detail. Ordnance Survey maps are marked "restricted," "secret" or "top secret," the smaller the scale the higher the classification. Unauthorized possession of them carries severe penalties.

Some of the restrictions imposed on the allies were dictated by Turkish pride. But others were just plain undemocratic. The population was simply ordered out of entire areas for the duration of the exercise and public roads blocked off by troops brandishing rifles with live ammunition. "Last year they moved an entire village, lock stock and barrel," said one British observer. At times one wondered what values Nato was defending.

"We do everything under the control of the host nation," said Major General Franco Angioni, the Italian commander of the force, known as the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force. "We have a language barrier. It's not like Denmark and Norway, where 90 per cent of the people speak English and where we can give talks directly to schoolchildren. Here communication is limited to hands and smiles. But it is still possible to express friendship between soldiers and the population."

However, the real reason was that the Turkish government exercises tight control over its population in this area. To justify this, it continually invokes the spectre of external threat. Hill tops are studded with profiles of the head of Ataturk and defiant slogans, such as "Ready to die for Turkey," in white stones.

Turkey were to become a member of the EEC, for which it has applied. "The youth of Turkey serve in honour of their country," said a senior Turkish officer. An alternative view was put forward by a conscript, who said: "It's awful. We're like slaves."

The conscripts in the officers' club in Erzurum, for instance, who perform domestic duties, are better off than most. Yet they work an 18-hour day, seven days a week, with only 20 days off in 18 months.

Like all other Turkish conscripts, they receive 20 cents a month. Those with skilled jobs receive up to 30 cents a month. "Conscripts" are ordered to keep their arms straight down by their sides, fingers outstretched while standing or walking. Hair has to be shaven so that the skull is visible.

Discipline is harsh. One said he had been beaten for using his hands to explain something to an officer. Another had been imprisoned for 45 days for falling asleep.

Those from the west of Turkey are sent to the east to serve, and vice versa. "This is the worst place in Turkey," one said. "I am from Istanbul. I think of myself as European. But here on the east side it's not Turkey. These people are crazy."

Officers' pay starts at 2,000 times that of conscripts. In military messes

scripts swarm around officers' tables attending to every whim.

Much of the Turkish obsession with secrecy was futile. Tourists were free to wander around the countryside at will taking photographs, and in any case the Russians were observing everything. Concerned about the military activity close to their border they had increased the number of daily photographic satellite orbits over the area from two to nine.

"We have not had much difficulty with local people," said Major Baha Ozyukseler, at a briefing inside the headquarters of the 40,000-strong Turkish 9th Corps based at Erzurum. "The people living in this part of Turkey are very conservative."

At times during the major's briefing it was hard to keep a straight face as, after consulting the intelligence officer, he repeatedly refused to answer any questions relating to the strength of the Soviet forces near Turkey's border on the grounds that the information was secret.

But on a wall was a chart of far greater sensitivity than a thousand forbidden photographs of mountain scenery or of conscripts picking grass. There displayed in letters of legible size were all the details, including locations, of Soviet troops near Turkey. They had forgotten to cover them.

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The price of zealotry

Tora Today/Pinhas H. Peli

This week's Tora portion is Pinhas (Numbers 25:10-30:1). The Haftara is Kings I, 18:46-19:21.

THE RESULTS of his act were laudable; through it the people of Israel were saved from death in the plague caused by their licentious relations with the daughters of Midian (Numbers 25:1-15). God himself awarded him a medal of distinction (verse 12). Nevertheless, not a word of approval as to the method he employed in achieving those results. Pinhas, the courageous leader who had just saved his people, was not chosen to succeed Moses. Even the unusual testimonial accorded to him by God for his act, implies that more such valiant acts of zealotry were not expected of him, but rather a measure of peace to balance and cool his spirits.

"Pinhas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, turned his wrath away from the children of Israel, in that he was very jealous for my sake... Wherefore... I give unto him my covenant of peace."

History knows many such infuriated enthusiasts. In their avid and unbounded passionate devotion to certain ideals, they have achieved desirable goals that were otherwise out of reach. Pinhas was not an isolated phenomenon. He was a prototype of many others among whom one of the most prominent was the prophet Elijah. Their characteristics and actions are so similar that the rabbis say (T.B. Baba metzia 114b) the two are one and the same, and the Haftara that accompanies the reading of the story of Pinhas in the Tora tells the story of Elijah as it appears in the 1st Book of Kings.

Elijah, just like Pinhas, fought a just and courageous battle. He cut off the false prophets, and thus perhaps saved the continuity of true prophecy in Israel. He fearlessly challenged the evil king Ahab and his queen, the infamous Jezebel. Because of his sincere zeal and fervor for the cause he propagated, he found what was happening in Israel so unbearable that he ran away to the wilderness to end his life. In his bitterness he pleaded with God, saying: "It is enough now, O Lord, take my life!" (19:4).

Here, too, just as in the story of Pinhas, while the Almighty surely approved of Elijah's action as his agent in fighting evil and falsehood, he found it appropriate to reprove him for his over-zealousness. While Elijah was in a cave in the wilderness of Horeb, the Lord appeared to him, saying: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" With all due respect to your passionate over-involvement in the cause of justice and truth, your place is not here, in magnificent, self-pitying solitude!

Elijah was so absorbed in his gloomy mood, that he did not seem to catch on to the spirit of the question which the Lord addressed to him. In reply he depicted his story, as he saw it: "I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the children of Israel have forsaken Thy covenant, thrown down Thine altars, and slain Thy prophets with the sword; I am left all alone, and they seek my life to take it away."

Instead of God expressing sympathy, assuring Elijah of how much He felt for him and appreciated his sincerity, He commanded him to

leave the cave and "stand upon the mount before the Lord."

"And, behold, the Lord passed by and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and broke the rocks in pieces... but the Lord was not in the wind!"

"And after the wind, an earthquake... but the Lord was not in the earthquake."

"And, after the earthquake, a fire... but the Lord was not in the fire."

"And after the fire, a still small voice (better translation: 'the voice of thin silence')."

Did Elijah get the message now? "He wrapped his face in his mantle," we are told (the same mantle that later on was to fascinate Elisha), and stood there, in the entrance to the cave. When the voice came again and repeated the question: "What are you doing here, Elijah?", he repeated his answer, as though the dramatic events which had just taken place had not occurred at all. He was totally locked in the passionate angst of his mission; all he was able to say was "I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Thy covenant, thrown down Thine altars, and slain Thy prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life to take it away."

Like all dedicated zealots, Elijah repeated the same slogans over and over again, as if the storm wind, and the earthquake, and the fire, had not happened, and the still small voice had not been heard at all. At this point, the Lord addresses him directly: "Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus... Elisha the son of Shaphat... shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy place."

According to a daring interpretation of the ancient rabbis (in the opening chapter of the Mekhilta, ed. Lauterbach, p. 9), this last phrase amounts to a dismissal of Elijah as prophet. With all due respect to Elijah's impressive achievements as prophet, "the expression 'in thy place' used here," say the rabbis in the Mekhilta, "can have no purport other than: I am not pleased with your prophesying." Elijah was "fired" because he did not show more empathy for Israel, but censured them instead.

THE STORY THAT follows, telling about Elijah's ascension, was taken by the rabbis as evidence of what we might call in our colloquial terms "to be kicked upstairs"... His ascension was a sign that he was not for this world, where zealotry and strong passions are an asset sometimes, but must not be permanent norms. Pinhas and Elijah both occupy places of honor in the pantheon of the people of Israel. Their personal example, however, is to be emulated with great caution. The image of Pinhas was transformed into a representative of the covenant of peace, Elijah's into the ever-living herald of good tidings who would eventually bring harmony between the generations (Malachi 3:24), turning the heart of the parents to their children and the heart of the children to their parents.

Rabbi Peli is professor of Jewish thought and literature, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

I GATHER that Premier Yitzhak Shamir was shocked at Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon's ambushing him with his political committee proposal at Herut's Central Committee, because they'd settled the agenda during their preparatory discussion four days earlier. Or so he thought.

Given Sharon's warning that next time he'll push through his plan to become party politruk, Shamir should keep in mind Ariel's expertise in the strategy of "creeping annexation." In Herut they're saying that Ariel had already made his point, resuming centre stage by his threat of a future confrontation.

IT IS NOT generally known that West German President Richard von Weizsaecker was asked to intercede on behalf of the "mother of refugees," Ida Nudel with his Soviet hosts during his recent visit to Moscow. He did so at the personal request of President Chaim Herzog, made three months ago during the latter's state mission to Bonn. Herzog had hoped against hope that Nudel might be allowed to leave during the West German head of state's visit. However, the Russians did okay Herzog's request that von Weizsaecker include Israel TV's Yisrael Segal and other newsmen assigned to Bonn in his entourage.

KNESSET Labour and Social Affairs Committee Chairman Ora Namir managed to meet the ailing Soviet Jewish heroine during Namir's recent visit to Moscow for an international women's congress, and pleaded her case to senior Kremlin officials. She met key policy-makers, like Igor Kislo of the Institute of World Economics and International Studies, while doing the groundwork for next month's visit there of Labour Party Secretary-General Uzi Baram, itself an indication of change, she says.

Namir told me that she found the Russians better informed about Israel, more interested in a dialogue with us, and more receptive to her criticism about the refusniks, than on her previous visit five years ago. "They're expecting a gesture from us," she reported.

WHY WAS MK Tewfik Toubi, Rakah's leading Arab MK, the only one - apart from Finnish Ambassador Osmo Valimola - to greet the first Russian diplomatic mission in 20 years, led officially by Yevgeny Antipov and Alexei Chestyanov, when it slipped quietly into the country? Rakah Party spokesman Uzi Baram says: "We felt a friendly welcome was required." I wonder which Russian political party will be at Moscow airport when Israel's consular mission arrives there?

Newest Soviet olah Yuli Edelstein had an exciting first day in Israel. Rafi Reshef, anchorman of the TV talk show, *Erev Hadesef*, brought

Sharon's expertise in creeping annexation

Public Faces/Mark Segal

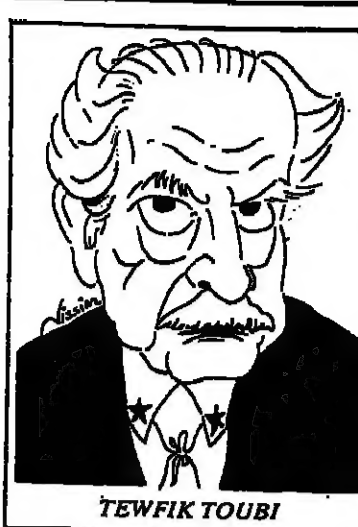
him together on screen with Prime Minister Shamir in the studio for an interview. When the PM, for once displaying emotion in public, complimented him on his Hebrew, Edelstein replied: "My profession is languages."

SHARON and Minister-without-Portfolio Yitzhak Moda'i this week behaved like debt collectors when urging Shamir to sack Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. But those-in-the-know contend their real intention is to push Shamir into forming a narrow government, where not only would he be dependent on Shas's Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, but have Sharon as the dominant influence.

MUCH attention was paid to Peres's visit to Bar-Ilan University where Prof. Michael Albeck assured him that it would take another eight months for his system to be totally cleared of nicotine. (Peres stopped smoking four months ago.) However, there was less notice given to his cordial reception in a traditional Herut stronghold - south Tel Aviv's Kfar Shalem district - where the main event was a meeting of neighborhood council heads convened by Kfar Shalem local leader Eli Ben-Menahem.

COMMUNICATIONS and Economics Minister Gad Ya'acobi reports that 12 out of 17 party activists to whom he spoke in a Labour Party phone-in, wondered whether it wasn't best to quit the coalition given the impasse over the peace process. Knesset Defence and Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Abba Eban concedes "for a dove it's a cruel dilemma. It's logical to quit, but history has never been logical. We're like the boy in the Dutch story who held back the sea by keeping his finger in the dike. Can you imagine what'd happen with, for example, Sharon back at the defence ministry and Genda Cohen as education minister?"

I met Eban at the crowded Bastille Day party held by French Ambassador Alain Pierret and his wife Jacqueline in their Jaffa residence's garden. At the centre of attention were Yitzhak and Shulamit Shamir, Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his wife Lea. Also attending were Justice and Tourism Minister Avraham Shari and his



TEWFIK TOUBI



SARA DORON

wife Rivka, WZO Jewish Agency chairman Arye Dulin and his wife Annette, and Mayor Salomo (Chich) Lahat. There were MKs galore - like Likudniks Eliyahu Ben-Elsasser and Yoram Aridor and Labour's Dov Ben-Meir and Uzi Baram, plus a foreign ministry contingent led by Peres's No. 2 Yossi Beilin. The arts were well-represented by the likes of painter Ya'acov Agam and writer Dahn Ben-Amotz.

INCIDENTALLY, Abba Eban set a dangerous precedent when Knesset voting duties kept him from flying to Chicago for the U.S. Friends of Weizmann Institute's 80th birthday dinner in honour of Philip Klutznick. Instead he delivered his speech via satellite. That should make him less popular with all his globe-trotting colleagues.

MK Dan Meridor showed more electoral savvy than his fellow Herutniks when arguing against punishing Liberal Knesset faction head Sara Doron for voting against Shas's conversion bill. He's aware of the congratulations by post and phone flooding her Tel Aviv home.

I gather that her party ally "Abrasha" Sharir reacted angrily on learning that a Herut delegation, led by coalition executive chairman Haim Kaufman, asked Shamir to install Deputy Minister Ronnie Milo as an active steward at the much-troubled Justice Ministry. Sharir's frequent absences abroad have produced a new joke: Two planes were in near head-on collision over the Atlantic and Sharir was in both of them.

URGED to act more roughly against striking public sector employees, Finance Minister Moshe Nissim warned against "beating things up too much." Maybe he too realizes that Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar is like the man keeping the lid down on a pressure cooker.

OUR MAN at the UN, Benyamin (Bibi) Netanyahu - now on home leave - was most non-committal when I asked him whether he's the Likud's candidate for Dulzin's job as Agency/WZO chairman. One can hardly blame him. Even his massive popularity with U.S. Jewry won't appease Reform and Conservative anger at the Likud's backing of the Orthodox on the "Who is a Jew?" issue. Labour hopes it'll increase the chances of their candidate - Treasurer Akiva Lewinsky.

Agency Director-General Shlomo Gazit must be an optimist if he thinks that by paying a four-figure dollar monthly fee to private PR agent Alex Kutai he will improve the organization's image by the Zionist Congress's November deadline.

A MILESTONE in Israeli banking history was passed this week when the names of the Recanati founding family were missing from the list of the Discount Bank's 12-man board of directors, chaired by Joseph Ciechanover, that appeared in the first annual report to be issued for foreign consumption since the Bejsky findings. However, the Recanati appear in full force, in the same report, among the directors of the

IDB Bankholding Corporation Ltd. (which owns the banking group and its subsidiaries). They are its chairman Raphael plus Jacob, Leon and Oudi.

YESTERDAY'S uncontested re-election of Dan Gillerman as president of the Chambers of Commerce at its 35th general meeting at the Tel Aviv Hilton hotel was not unexpected. He has certainly put the organization on the map and become a leading spokesman for the private sector. He also has a nice sense of political balance - Peres opened the meeting, Nissim spoke in the middle and Sharon at the closing dinner.

TEL AVIV Museum director Marc Scheeps has been getting a double *mazel tov* - for his 10th anniversary as director of the museum and the marriage of his son Yaron to Osnat Beikind at the Dan Panorama Hotel. Wedding guests ranged from Mayor Lahat to artists Avigdor Steimatsky and Ziona Shimshi, friends like Hanna Maron and Ya'acov Richter, Esther Rubin, Doffie and Lola Beer-Ebner, plus Yosef Hakhmi and Alfred Akiriv. The professional *mazel tov* came for the breaking of attendance records - almost 45,000 paying viewers in just over a month at the museum, especially since the Wuppertal Museum exhibition "From Marées to Picasso" opened.

OUR consul-general in New York, Moshe Yegar has been on home leave with his wife Devora, and a number of friends have been holding parties for him in Jerusalem, including former Philadelphia Elkes Hirsch and Ayala Sachs-Abramov.

ASIDE from the many thousands of local music-lovers, many millions of Mexican viewers heard live, via a satellite broadcast arranged by Mexico's television network, the singing of Plácido Domingo with the IPO under Zubin Mehta's baton in its Concert in the Park. However only those near enough to the sound system managed to hear Mayor Chich pay tribute three times to violinist Itzhak Perlman, apparently making up for having omitted to thank him even once at last year's Concert in the Park.

THE Tourism Industry turned out in force to attend the reception at the Daniel Towers Hotel, Herzliya to bid farewell to Luft Hansa's Israel Manager Karl-Helz Dieckrichsen and welcome his successor Dieter Gerber. The affair was hosted jointly by the airline's director for Europe, Dr. Karl Ambrosius and its Athens-based regional manager Manfred Reimer.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz was awarded the Henrietta Szold prize by Hadassah President Ruth Popkin at its annual convention held in Baltimore, the birthplace of Szold, founder of the largest Jewish women's organization.

Jewish cemetery restored in Germany

Ya'acov Friedler

THIS PAPER'S recent report on the displacement of the 400-year-old Jewish cemetery from the grounds of the Rheineck Castle near Bonn, "was instrumental in eliciting a quick decision to return the remaining tombstones to the site and restore it." German journalist Carl Bertram Hommen, has informed *The Jerusalem Post*.

Hommen, who wrote a booklet on the cemetery which survived the ravages of many wars and the Nazi period, has been actively working for its restoration for several years. He has written numerous articles urging that the site be preserved "as a historical monument and as a testimonial to both the hard lot of the

Jews and the liberal attitudes of the local citizens to them."

Herbert Hillebrand, a real-estate millionaire, bought the castle in 1979 in order to fence off the castle grounds for his private use; he had the tombstones removed, with the agreement of the then octogenarian head of the Koblenz Jewish community. But Hillebrand "has now agreed to the return of the tombstones, the restoration of the graveyard and its registration as an independent site in the land registry," Bommen stated.

The town council of Bad Breisig, where the castle is situated, also decided to register the graveyard as an official Historical Monument, which assures its protection under the law in future.

The matter was brought to this reporter's attention by the Jewish sculptor, Ladis Schwartz, in March. Schwartz was here in connection with the forthcoming erection on the sea-shore of his bronze sculpture, commemorating the aliyah of German Jews in the 1930's, and their contribution to Israel.

On his return to Bonn, he distributed 50 photocopies of *The Post* report on the graveyard. The matter

was soon raised in parliament and in the town council and culminated in Hillebrand's agreement to restore the graveyard.

Pressed by German newspapers, Hillebrand admitted that removing the tombstones and fencing off the cemetery had been "a mistake," and added: "My best friend is a Jew." Owner of 12 castles, he said he would agree to any arrangement the town proposed to turn the cemetery into a public site, accessible to visitors.

Fortunately, Hommen told *The Post*, he had taken a photo of the original graveyard before the castle was purchased. This means "that it can be restored to its original state as a forest cemetery with the 26 stones that were removed - and the two since found on the site - replaced their former positions." The oldest stone dates from 1621 and the last, from 240 years later. In 1861, burial was discontinued there and the Jewish community was given a new cemetery site nearby.

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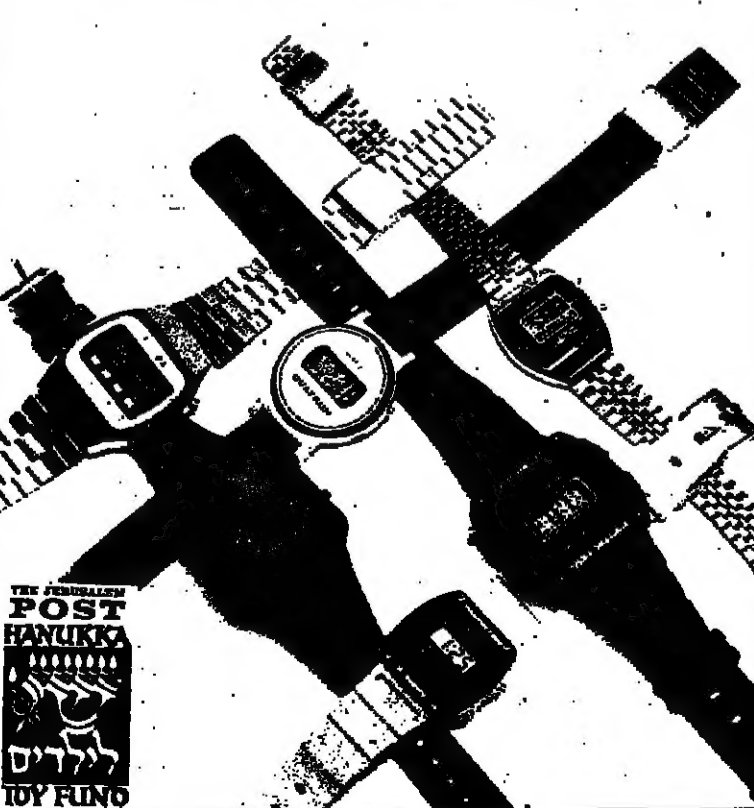
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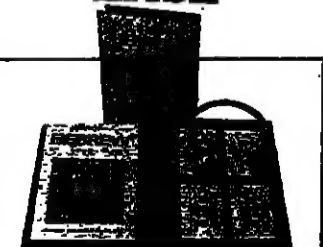
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 6. *Phylum*
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1. The first step is to identify the problem. This involves understanding the symptoms and the context in which they are occurring.

SECRET

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TELEREVIEW/Matt Nesvisky

Best face forward

THERE WE ARE each Saturday evening, an entire nation suffering *delirium tremens* brought on by acute tube deprivation. For a whole 24 hours or more we've been denied our life-giving dose of mind-rotting cathode radiation. Each Shabbat the drama is played out anew: can we hold out?

As the sun wanes, we gather the last of our strength. Hearts pumping, we drag ourselves out into the streets or up onto the roof. One, two, three stars! May the heavens be praised! We raise our remote controls in gratitude! Now, like crazed lemmings we can stagger, scramble, hurl ourselves back into our living rooms. And hit the switch! And start living once more!

Or something like that. Anyway, the TV week got off to a pleasant start on Saturday evening with the latest instalment of the new series *Private Screen*. This is where the ubiquitous Ehud Manor invites well-known personalities to reveal their favourite selections of music and entertainment.

The idea is rather a rip from the BBC's venerable *Desert Island Discs*, in which guests are asked to present the 10 recordings they would most like to have at hand in the event of being shipwrecked.

Popular as that programme has remained over the years, something about its main premise has always bothered me. Just exactly what are these castaways supposed to do with these phonograph records? Use them as dishes? Play frister with them on the beach? Barter them with the natives for more useful items, like airline tickets?

Which brings to mind the story of a lovely young starlet who was asked whom she would choose as a companion if she had to be shipwrecked on a desert island with only one other person. Unexpectedly, the starlet proved herself no fool when she promptly replied: "A good obstetrician."

All right, stop that. The subject was *Private Screen*. The idea of course is that by revealing his taste in music and such, the famous guest will show that, beneath his public persona, he's really just a human being. Judicious guests will also demonstrate through their choices that they are cultured but also down-to-earth, complex but unpretentious, independent but not aloof, well-rounded, intelligent, one-of-the-boys and possessive of any number of other crowd-pleasing, vote-getting virtues.

Presumably Tehiya MK Geula Cohen did this the previous week, but I don't know, I missed the programme, and in any event, can't you just imagine Geula's favourite marching tunes? This week's guest was Citizen's Rights MK Yossi Sarid. His list of favs proved to be eclectic, to say the least.

Sarid opened by confessing that he harboured a secret desire to conduct an orchestra, a common enough aspiration for any music lover but not insignificant in a politician. Anyway, we were accordingly treated to a film clip of IPO musical director Zubin Mehta doing his imitable thing, which left Sarid all aglow.

So did his next choice: Barbara Streisand wrapping her tonsils around "Memories." And the next: Arik Einstein, circa 1969. Then a film clip of *Elvira Madigan*, which featured a picnic scene that looked like one of those glossy magazine adverts for Campari. The scene of course was played out against a lush



Yossi Sarid...one of the boys.
(Rahamin Yisraeli)

orchestration of Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21 in C Major.

Sarid's other choices showed his predilection for comedy: a clip from Woody Allen's latest film, *Radio Days*, and the Nikui Rosh team's memorable musical number satirizing the idea (this was 1975) of a national unity government.

Finally — and perhaps not as surprising as it seems at first — Sarid included among his musical choices a video of the pop tune "I'll Be Watching You," as performed by The Police. Who sez Israeli leftists are paranoid?

Then came Sunday and — argghh! — a strike! Shabbat all over again — and so soon! But no — TV junkies could at least shoot up on the methadone of pirate cables, videos and the insidious beamings from enemy countries. — You reviewers have neither cable nor video, an admission that invariably brings snarls of incredulity from his army buddies ("You mean you just watch Israel TV? You're kidding? You're sick!"), so I had to settle for a documentary telecast from the Hashemite kingdom called *Living with Crocodiles*, produced, and rather handsomely, I must say, by the government of Australia's Northern Territory.

This was all very edifying, but by the end of the hour my sofa-mate and I had absorbed a great deal more knowledge about crocodiles than we'd ever hoped to acquire or would ever expect to find useful. And since nothing we learned obviated the fact that crocodiles, whenever they get the opportunity, will eat Jews, we were not convinced in the least that *Living with Crocodiles* is at all desirable.

We then went back to the ITV test pattern, but after a remarkably short time the possibilities were exhausted there. Then we exchanged a significant look that clearly said, Whatever

are we doing, and virtuously switched off.

No doubt like thousands of other couples throughout the land, we next attempted to revive the *Lost Art of Conversation*, only to discover that, like the *Lost Continent of Atlantis*, it apparently has sunk irretrievably into oblivion or, more likely, it never existed in the first place. We knew we could try reading a book, but what if someone caught us? Besides, we had none in the house. No TV! Presumably the national rate of domestic axe-murders was rising at alarming proportions. Luckily I had my stamp album and my crewelwork to keep my hands occupied.

Things were looking much brighter Tuesday, when ETV beamed the feature film, *The Stranger*, with Orson Welles doing one of his Harry Lime heavies, Edward G. Robinson as a very engaging Nazi hunter, and Loretta Young as the innocent gal caught up in all the intrigue (she did look terribly wide-eyed and vulnerable, especially as her cheekbones were so high they frequently seemed to meet somewhere above her forehead).

Anyway it was a fun flick, and Orson's direction was deft and aptly diabolical. The tender devotees of Educational TV were no doubt pleased to learn how dedicated the Americans were in tracking down escaped Nazi war-criminals immediately after the war, and especially in rooting out those who had made their way to the U.S. under new identities.

Tuesday evening brought us the final chapter of *The Long Hot Summer*. There seems something daft about the idea of basing a TV mini-series on a movie — one set of visual images adapted from another. Yet the Yanks did this very nicely a few years back when they had Nick Nolte playing the Burt Lancaster role in *From Here to Eternity*, and I must say current throw Don Johnson (the chief virtue of *Miami Vice*) handled the Paul Newman persona of *Long Hot* very well. Of course, all of this was very freely based on stories by William Faulkner, and, as the saying goes, if he were alive today, he'd no doubt be spinning in his grave.

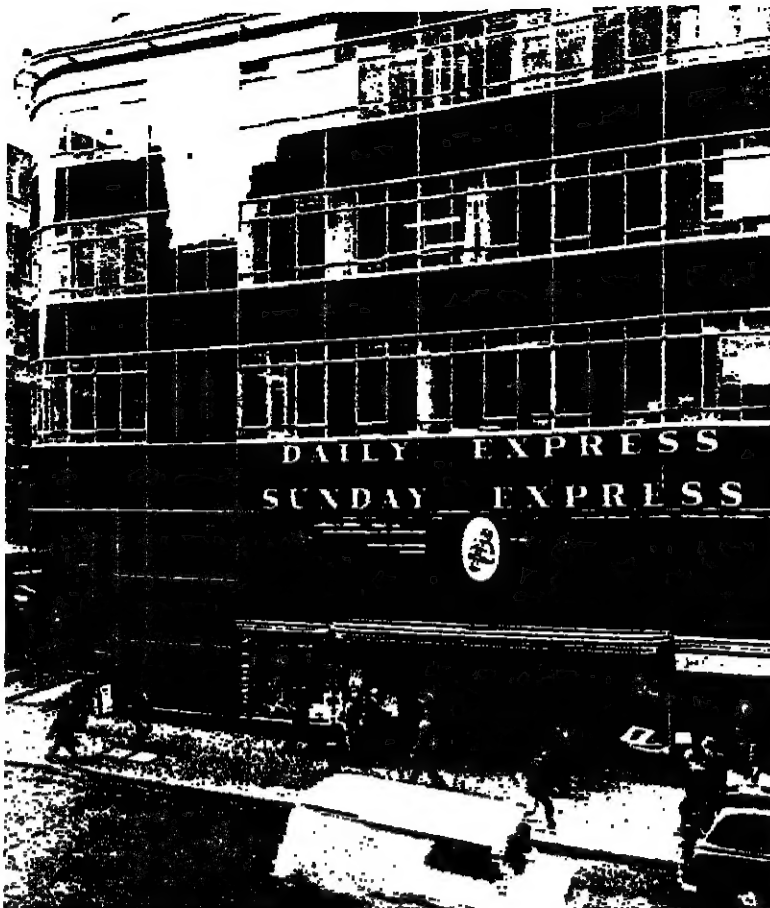
A colleague at Kol Yisrael informs us, apropos our references last week, that the *Shaka Zulu* series on Jordan TV was indeed mainly a South African Broadcasting Authority production, and that the absence of this information in the credits was, as we surmised, quite intentional. Our informant adds that cable stations in the U.S. that planned to broadcast the series drew pickets, because of the general opposition in the U.S. to South African products, and because the series was perceived as especially promoting an anti-black image.

Having invested \$24 million and several years of preparation, the South Africans no doubt were looking to overseas markets for *Shaka Zulu*. We wonder if they found any buyers outside of King Hussein — and how ITV would respond to an offer.

The series incidentally ended last week in a staggering orgy of violence as, to express his grief at his mother's death, Shaka ordered a large-scale slaughter of his own people, had hundreds entombed alive with mumm, and banned all cultivation for a year so that everyone else could suffer along with him. Shaka was finally hacked to death, and everything went up in flames into the most impressive conflagration this side of *The Towering Inferno*.

Bernard Josephs reflects in nostalgic mood on a vanishing world

Farewell to Fleet Street



As the rivers of ink dry up, bankers, stockbrokers and hordes of pin-striped warriors are preparing to take over the imposing buildings that once housed Britain's greatest newspapers.

WITH A swish of his cloak the "Black Prince" swept into the City Golf Club and ordered a drink. The jewelled rings on his fingers glittered as he lifted the pint of amber liquid to his lips.

"Aye, that's better," he growled in a thick Lancashire accent. "I'll have another."

Actually there was little aristocratic about the Prince, who was so called because of his habit of turning up at the scene of grisly murders wearing a black cape.

His real name was — and hopefully still is — Jimmy Nicholson, one of Fleet Street's finest crime reporters.

He epitomizes a fast-vanishing breed of hard-nosed, tough-talking journalists who flew by the seat of their pants, could squeeze information from a stone and turn in an exclusive story without as much as breaking into a sweat.

For the Prince and dozens of others like him, these are sad days. The old habitat is cracking at the seams. There is a strange stillness where once the earth trembled with the thunder of giant presses.

Fleet Street, the heart and soul of their world, is closing down. *The Sun*, the *News of the World*, *The Times* and *Sunday Times* have already headed for the gleaming, hi-tech palaces of London's docklands. *The Telegraph* is next and *The Daily Express* will follow within two years.

As the rivers of ink dry up, bankers, stockbrokers and hordes of pin-striped warriors are preparing to take over the imposing buildings that once housed Britain's greatest newspapers.

Even Fleet Street's famed watering holes, where the Prince and his cohorts would stake their throats between murders and robberies, are changing character. Some — if the BBC is to be believed — have gone the whole hog, becoming wine bars to serve more genteel folk.

For those who worked in "The Street," its demise is more than rationalization, or whatever the current phrase may be. It is the end of a world.

The strip of road linking the City of London with the West End, and overshadowed by the magnificent bulk of St. Paul's Cathedral, has been the Holy Grail to generations of young reporters working on Britain's local papers for near starvation wages.

It represented the pinnacle of

their craft, not to mention an abrupt end to poverty. There are few reporters who will ever forget their first day on Fleet Street.

MINE WAS spent in the news-room of the *London Evening News* where, at moments of great pressure, news editor George Hollingbery would stand before us like a general reviewing his troops and urge us on to greater efforts with Wellingtonian cries of "steady the Buffs, forward the Grenadiers."

Afterwards I made the first of

many trips "over the road" to The Harrow pub where the veterans sat pronouncing on the issues of the day in increasingly slurred tones.

There was something unreal, almost "Dickensian," about life in Fleet Street. "Characters" sprouted from every nook and cranny, their progress to immortality aided and abetted by the Street's strange belief in its own legends and bewilderment at those who did not share in its fascination with itself.

Was the well-known feature writer who every day sent a copy-boy to

The Harrow to bring him a half-bottle of champagne a character or a poseur? The same question could be asked about the pop columnist who arrived every day in a large American car that filled three spaces in the car park and must have been a real headache to thread through the rush-hour traffic on his way home.

There were "madmen," too, like Scotsman Jim Gilheany, a reporter on *The Daily Express* who, in the middle of the Athens airport massacre in 1973, ignored the bullets and lunged for a public phone which he used to send eye-witness dispatches to a startled news-desk back home.

Within its precincts Fleet Street contained fine reporters and editors who scaled great heights of journalistic skill. But equally there were those who plumbed the lowest depths. For some show-biz, rather than journalism, was the name of the game. Too often screaming headlines atop partisan, shallow stories took precedence over such values as accuracy and taste. Cheque-book journalism flourished in private while being condemned in public — usually by the paper that was outbid.

I vividly recall standing outside the home of an errant Miss World with a *Daily Mirror* man smiling at me from the other side of the front window, having "bought her up."

Such behaviour will of course continue wherever the press barons decide to settle next. What will be missed is the village atmosphere of the Street and the sense of belonging that made it special.

FOR ALL their antics and the cut-throat competition, there was a peculiar solidarity among the journalists who worked in Fleet Street. Often it was cemented by liberal doses of alcohol in such pubs and clubs as the Cheshire Cheese, the City Golf Club (where there was not a blade of grass or a set of clubs in sight) and the White Swan (known to everyone as the Mucky Duck).

Feelings of solidarity expressed themselves best in times of difficulty. Colleagues who fall on hard times were rarely jettisoned.

It is hard to believe that the Fleet Street spirit will survive the dispersal of the national newspapers to sites around London. And there is the suspicion that, while the industry has undoubtedly given itself a financial shot in the arm by moving from Fleet Street, it has sold part of its soul in the process.

Tomorrow's scientists

COMPUTER WHIZ Maximilian Karl-Konrad Riesenhuber, son of the West-German science minister, is among the 70 high-school science students from 16 countries who are participating in the 19th course of the Dr. Bessie F. Lawrence international Summer Science Institute at the Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot.

Selected on the basis of award-winning science-fair entries, recommendations by various bodies on the lookout for young talents, or by direct application to the institute's youth activities section at the Amos de Shalit Youth Centre, the participants are outstanding achievers both in scientific and extra-curricular activities.

The young scientists, who come from Europe, North and South America and the Far East, as well as Israel, are spending a month attending seminars, lab sessions and mini-courses; visiting research facilities on campus and at the Israel Aircraft Industries; and preparing projects on subjects ranging from "elementary particle physics" to "bone marrow transplantation."

An honourable failure

THE STORY OF JONAH, a chamber opera in four parts by Andre Hajdu. *Shofar Choir*, conducted by Maya Shavit; soloists: Etti Kesham (Jonah), Stage director: Gabi Eldar. (Jerusalem, Hertz Hall, July 14.)

HAVING the biblical story of prophet Jonah — word for word — as an opera libretto is a whole of a challenge in all but its length. But while containing high drama, action and a profound philosophical message, its language is tersely matter-of-fact and its tempo dispassionately quick. Furthermore, the youth choir which performed it was unable to inject excitement into the proceedings. Under such circumstances, the task of assuring the operatic effect proved mission impossible.

Andre Hajdu, one of our more imaginative and adventuresome composers, chose a small, percussion-oriented band — two pianos (Gabi Franco and Tania Borisova), a percussion battery (Chen Combalista) and double-bass (expressively rendered by Victor Fonarov). The eclectic music moved stylishly between serialism and echoes of jazz and music hall. For the most part, the score featured short, repeated motifs and parallel choral part-writing. Some time into the work, the range of possibilities inherent in this framework appeared to exhaust



Composer Andre Hajdu.

itself, the musical ideas began to be repeated and the level of interest dropped dramatically.

A few poorly synchronized entries notwithstanding, members of the *Shofar* Choir sang and acted well. The youngsters' discipline and dedication should have made their director, Maya Shavit, proud. A group of three girls, in a semi-solo role, offset the vocally monochromatic choral texture but only slightly. The only solo part — that of Jonah — demanded more movement than singing, and Etti Kesham's vocal equipment showed little to recommend it.

The aspects of staging — lighting (Bambi) and props and costumes (Michal Gamzu) — made their points effectively, containing as they did a convincing mix of the abstract and specific for events far removed in time and consciousness. Gabi Eldar made wise use of the stage space, while the staging of Jonah being swallowed by the Big Fish was brilliant.

All in all, the performance testified to a genuine, sincere and occasionally admirable effort by all concerned. If in the end the opera did not succeed, it was an honourable failure.

ELI KAREV.

In memoriam: Ben Elkerbout

Bold film-maker

BEN ELKERBOUT, the Dutch Jewish television and film producer, died early this month in Amsterdam at the age of 46, shortly after completing his first full-length commercial film, *Dreamers*, a Dutch-Israeli-American co-production about a kibbutz in Galilee. He had suffered a heart attack on his way back home from Paris, where he had been supervising the arrangements for the premiere of the film in September.

It was not by chance that Elkerbout's first commercial movie was set and filmed in Israel. Many of the television documentaries with which he made a name for himself as a producer, editor and presenter for the Dutch Labour broadcasting company, Vara, were made there, for he specialized in the Middle East.

One of his best-known TV programmes was a portrait of Golda Meir, for which he was awarded a prize at the first Jewish film and television festival in Jerusalem.

Together with his junior colleague Ludy Boeken, he did some extensive filming of the Yom Kippur War. Boeken happened to be in Israel on a private visit when the war broke out. Elkerbout phoned him and told him to get going with his camera, and then joined him on the first available plane.

In September 1971, when the PLO hijacked three passenger planes and held them hostage in the Jordanian desert, he was the only journalist allowed to do an on-the-spot report. In the late '70s, Elkerbout, and a number of his colleagues, decided

that they were allowed too little independence at Vara, and left. Most of them joined other companies, but he and Boeken struck out on their own. Using their severance pay, they formed an independent television documentary company, which they named Belbo.

Thanks to managerial and business skills that proved to match his professional talents, Elkerbout and his partner soon made a success of the enterprise, which now has offices not only in Holland but also in London, Paris and Tel Aviv.

Elkerbout's forte was demasking by investigative journalism, and *The Demasking* was the title of one of his documentaries, which uncovered the financial resources of the neo-Nazis throughout the world. Others dealt with the dumping of unlicensed medicines in the Third World, prisons in Argentina, and a reconstruction of the student's revolts in Europe in the late '60s.

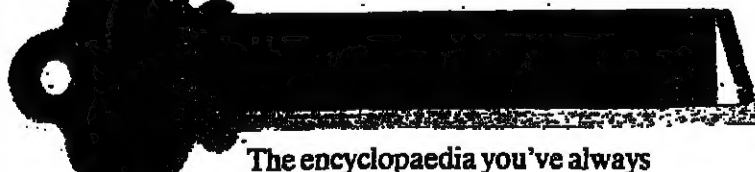
It was only in the past year or so that he went over to producing full-length features as well. Having completed *The Dreamers*, Belbo began on the co-production with a British company, Central, of a film on the life of Vincent van Gogh, for which filming has already started. In an interview with the Dutch Labour daily *Het Vrije Volk* just a fortnight before his untimely death, Ben Elkerbout said: "I want to become the most important and the best film producer in the Netherlands, of course, the very best. And in Europe, one of the most important."

HENRIETTA BOAZ

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Selling one's mother to finance a movie

Simon Louissou



Filming 'The Dreamers' here brought \$1.1m. to Israel.

(Yoni Haiman)

THE FILM industry, it is said, is Jewish, whether in America or Russia, but in Israel it is having problems.

While there has been a relatively healthy output of around 20 feature films over each of the past few years, the source of funding has been relatively shaky and actions taken by tax commissioner Yoram Rabinovich have led to a reassessment of the industry's financing.

Recently, Ariel Sharon, whose Industry and Trade Ministry is responsible for the Israel Film Centre, put a package proposal to the Knesset Finance Committee which will not only considerably increase the direct assistance given to the industry but also enhance the existing tax shelter arrangements.

The proposals raise questions of whether the film industry should be singled out for special assistance and whether the method chosen is not open to abuse.

People in the industry say it should receive special assistance. Omri Maron, the recently appointed chairman of the Israel Film and TV Producers Association argues that one of the primary reasons is the small size of the domestic market. Even if a film is a runaway box office hit, the potential gross is only about \$700,000 which means it is unlikely to recoup costs. Of the 12 Hebrew-language movies produced last year, not one managed to cover production costs through local releases. The problem is that films, much more than say theatre or orchestra, fall between the stools of art and commerce.

What justification was there for providing assistance for a film like Australia's *Crocodile Dundee* which has made over \$100m. for its producers? The answer, says Maron, is that a money-making film should not be disqualified from receiving assistance just as other profitable industries get government support.

A healthy domestic film industry is culturally desirable, he says. Israelis are bred on a steady diet of Hollywood and BBC. When they see an Israeli film, people are able to view heroes and heroines they can fully identify with, to say nothing of hearing the soundtrack in their mother tongue.

Yoram Golan, director of the Israel Film Centre, stresses that all the major European film producing countries provide considerable assistance to their industries. "In the free market countries, except for the U.S., the industry is heavily subsidized," he says. "The Israeli film industry is in an almost impossible situation trying to support economically a film production with our population. Public support is an absolute necessity if we want to maintain the industry."

Both Maron and Golan stress that support for the industry is worth-

while economically. Films earned around \$18m. in foreign exchange last year and Maron says that without too much cost this could be tripled. The value added to a film is almost 100 per cent so the film industry represents a very good investment. The direct grants for each film come to around \$100,000 each so for an industry producing around 20 films a year, the support comes to less than \$2m.

BUT THIS is not the full story. One of the great attractions of investing in films is the investor's ability to write off the entire expense in the year in which the outlay is made. According to a leading tax lawyer specializing in film financing deals, this makes films one of the best legal tax shelters in the game. In the past, especially under conditions of high inflation, investors have been able to utilize the tax laws to make five times their original investment. This is why people in high personal tax brackets — doctors, lawyers and small businessmen — have been heavy investors in films even though they have not the slightest interest in the industry.

Tax commissioner Rabinovich has threatened to cut, if not totally abolish, the shelter, by revoking the 1978 regulation under which the scheme has operated. He has also attempted to apply more stringent criteria for approving particular film investments as tax shelters than were originally laid down. As a result, potential investors have cried foul and the industry under the active leadership of Sharon has tried to put financing arrangements on a more secure footing.

Sharon is proposing that the film grant fund be increased from \$250,000 to \$750,000, with a maximum of \$100,000 going to each approved project. In addition, the provisions will allow the investor to write off 150 per cent of his original investment. There will also be a fund of \$500,000 for TV pilots and documentary films. A committee of three, one from the ministry and two industry experts, will decide who is to get funding.

While the amount provided to assist the industry seems paltry, especially in view of the \$18m. return, and the huge assistance provided to other industry, the raising of the tax write-off to 150 per cent raises the question of whether assistance should not come directly through the budget where it is totally visible. This is Rabinovich's aim and there may be good reasons behind it.

The beauty of film industry investment is that it can come at the end of the financial year and be matched against income incurred at the start of the year. By using nominal numbers, a relatively small investment

can, especially in times of high inflation, wipe out a large income.

Because the government also attempts to encourage foreign investment in film making, Israeli investors are able to use foreign loans equal to two thirds of their investment as part of their tax break.

Maron suggests that the 150 per cent write-off will allow the industry to take off in the same way that the Australian industry has and after a couple of years, when the industry is established, the incentive can be reduced or possibly abolished. He sees the industry playing its full part in Finance Minister Nissim's economic plan if it is allowed to.

But questions remain as to whether this type of financing produces good films. There is no incentive to make commercially successful films because the backers will never complain when the film bombs at the box office. If the film happens to make money, it is an unexpected bonus.

Sharon, however, remains a fan of the industry and the current financing techniques.

Others in the industry argue that just because the scheme is abused is not necessarily a reason to stop it. "Okay, so some lawyers take advantage, but all we want to do is make films," said Kateriel Schory, a producer from Belboa Films Ltd., presently shooting *The Dreamers*. He argues that their project has brought in \$1.1m. to Israel, has employed 150 people and will produce a film with the potential to make it on the international market.

SOME PEOPLE say that if the tax shelter is abolished, the film industry will virtually die overnight. In any case, the lower inflation and lower top personal income tax rates should make the tax shelter much less attractive.

"The fact that it became abused was due to high inflation. This is a case where tax incentives are justified," said the tax lawyer. He believes that funding through direct grants would not only make for unwanted red tape but would make government the arbiter of art. He suggests that in view of the fact that the top 6 per cent of taxpayers pay 60 per cent of taxes, the odd tax shelter may not be such a bad thing, especially if the end product is a thriving film industry.

The final arbiter of Sharon's proposals will be the Treasury. The confrontation will be between a particularly effective minister who has a habit of bulldozing his ideas through and a ministry which is strapped for cash and not noted for its disposition towards the arts.

Meantime, incentive or no incentive, films will continue to be made, says Maron. "People have the motion picture bug — they will sell their mothers to get a movie made."

THE LONG agony of Beit Shemesh Engines (BSE) is drawing slowly — very slowly — to a close. A buyer in view is local industrialist and former Knesset member Stef Wertheimer. Official sources say that the main differences holding up agreement have been overcome. The transaction is likely to be finalized during the next few months.

In August of last year, Ya'acov Gadish, one-time budget chief at the Treasury, told *The Jerusalem Post*: "Six hundred persons work for Beit Shemesh Engines. Close the plant and pay them \$600 a month each to make themselves scarce. That will cost \$360,000 — which is less than the \$1m. a month the company loses by staying open."

By now BSE's debts have soared to \$100m. Who is going to bear the loss? The taxpayer of course. The buyer will receive BSE free of charge after (not before) the government settles its debts, and after it retires one-third of its 680 employees. The cost to the Treasury should be around \$90m.

Not only that, Wertheimer wants a guaranteed market in the defence sector. The government agrees, the only difference being over how much. Wertheimer spoke of guaranteed orders totalling \$20m. a year, the authorities would only consent to \$10m. It appears that \$10m. will be the figure. "That does not solve BSE's sales problem," experts say, "but it gives them a start."

Is the buyer getting a bargain then? Anything but. A firm which loses \$1m. a month is never a bargain. It will of necessity go on losing money, until the investment-lag is made good and the company expensively re-equipped so that it can produce competitively.

Shutting the place down (instead of selling it off) would cost the government less than \$90m. in strictly budgetary terms. Only part of BSE's debts are to the government or are government-guaranteed. If we include severance pay, the Treasury's outlay would be \$40m.

The rest is owed to the banks — but the banks' losses would be tax-deductible, so at the end of the day, the Treasury would still be out of pocket to the tune of \$65m. or \$70m. Should it fork out \$20m. or \$25m. over and above that to keep the Beit Shemesh factory open?

GOVERNMENT EXPERTS have

Beit Shemesh Engines gets a needed overhaul

David Krivine

examined the problem and concluded that the company can become viable. According to Zvi Trop, the Defence Ministry's economic adviser: "The test for us is whether the buyer has a good production plan and possesses the necessary resources to make the enterprise work. If it cannot be profitable it should put up its shutters. But if all the past investments built up over the years in men, technology and materials can be activated by the new owner, there is a case for giving BSE a new lease of life."

What does Wertheimer have in mind? He says: "A modern warplane consists of three parts: body, electronics and engine. Israel Aircraft Industries is able to make the body. The country is graced with a first-class industry to supply the electronics. There remains the engine."

BSE was designed to supply that — and Wertheimer would like to make sure it does. He already manufactures turbine- and compressor-blades for export in his Nahariya factory, Iscar, and that alone accounts for one-quarter of the cost of a jet engine.

He proposes changing the name of BSE to Beit HaManoa or Engine House. He sees its task as assembling, under licence, various types of jet engine — in their entirety. "The plant should not be a spare-parts shop," he stresses. It should take responsibility for providing, jointly with the body manufacturer and the electronics suppliers, "something that will fly."

Another big opening, according to Trop, is engine improvement, involving the introduction of newly-designed components. "BSE has been modifying certain types of F-16 engines in association with Pratt and Whitney. The necessary quality

standards were maintained at a substantially lower cost."

The Israel Air Force welcomes this activity for several reasons. There are 3,000 components in an aircraft engine. An increasing number can be manufactured locally. It is good, to have an own-source for critical items, and time is saved by ordering in Israel. Engines do not have to be freighted overseas if they can be up-graded at home. Parts can be exported, lowering production costs.

standards were maintained at a substantially lower cost."

standards were maintained at a substantially lower cost."

Drawing of a Pratt and Whitney engine. This U.S. company holds 40 per cent of the shares in BSE.

AN IMPORTANT point in the company's favour when marketing the government's shares in BSE is the existence of the other partner — none other than Pratt and Whitney, which holds 40 per cent of the equity.

A year ago the government gave it the option of unloading its shares in BSE against a full repayment of original invested capital. It turned down the opportunity, choosing to retain the holding.

The challenge should be irresistible. The new owner is positively invited to prove himself. Under bad management, Pratt and Whitney will largely ignore BSE, as it has tended to do so far. But if the plant can do a wide range of top-quality, high-precision tasks with speed and at low

cost, there is no reason why it should not become a regular sub-contractor for its American parent company.

Why has it failed to do that, except episodically, up to now? Its founder was Joseph Shidlovsky, head of Turbomeca which produces small jet engines in France. When the Israelis replaced the French as Israel's supplier of war planes, Shidlovsky stonewalled attempts to convert the factory to the processing of American engines.

The government had no choice

but to buy Shidlovsky out. Since

then, the company has gone to the

dogs. Transferring it back to a

private owner has one overriding

advantage: his own money will be at

stake.

The government was sluggishly able to incur this deficit of \$90m. (enough to cover the budgetary shortfall of both the Education and Health Ministries, with money left over because no cabinet minister or civil servant is affected).

No individual will have to pay for this crushing debt out of his pocket or by giving up his job. No one is personally responsible. The new buyer will be — and that is the best possible incentive for the restoration of proper management.

The Third World up in arms

Colin Legum / London

THE ANNUAL value of the production of major weapons in the Third World has increased 500-fold from 1950 to 1984, according to the latest figures produced by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri).

In 1950, production of arms in Third World countries was estimated at about \$2.3 million in constant 1975 prices — roughly equivalent to the current cost of one main battle tank. A quarter of a century later, the Third World arms industry has grown to over \$1 billion. This is still only 1.5 per cent — 2 per cent of the global production of major weapons.

In the 1950's, Third World arms production was confined mainly to Argentina and Egypt and, to a lesser degree, Colombia, India and North Korea. During the second half of the 1950's, Brazil, Israel and South Africa began to produce arms in earnest, while India notably expanded its production. Other smaller nations also had begun to enter into the business of producing their own weapons.

Growth in production juddered to a halt in the 1960s at the same time as the major powers' arms trade with the Third World stopped growing because of the global economic crisis which limited arms procurement budgets, and because some countries had begun to feel the effects of saturation in weapons.

Production of major weapons systems is concentrated in a very few Third World countries, with India and Israel as the leading producers, accounting for 44 per cent between 1955-84. They were followed by South Africa, Brazil and Taiwan which accounted for a further 17 per cent of total production. These were followed by North Korea, Argentina and South Korea with another 18 per cent. These eight countries together produced well over 90 per cent of all the major weapons production in the Third World.

Major weapons, mainly shipping, are now also made in 12 smaller producing countries — Bangladesh, Burma, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Gabon, Madagas-

car, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Senegal and Sri Lanka. Aircraft are produced under licence in Chile and Pakistan, while Chile and Mexico also produce armoured vehicles.

All types of conventional weapons are manufactured in Third World countries — ranging from pistol ammunition to highly sophisticated jet aircraft and guided missiles. The emphasis in India is on high-technology weapons as a substitute for arms imports. South Africa, on the other hand, tends to concentrate more on low-technology with high-use value such as ammunition, small arms, vehicles and light aircraft. Brazil, Egypt and Singapore produce weapons for foreign customers in competition with the industrialized countries.

Aircraft, produced mainly on licence, is the most important category of major weapons produced in the Third World in terms of value. Only Israel and Brazil have developed indigenous designs. Production of armoured vehicles, mainly battle tanks, is still limited. Hardly any missile weapons systems are yet produced in the Third World with about 85 per cent of the value of all Third World missile production accounted for by Israel.

The market for licences sold for major weapons is dominated by the United States, Britain, France, West Germany and the USSR. Together they account for about 85 per cent of all licences sold to Third World countries, with the Americans as the most prolific supplier. The USSR remains reluctant to part with production technology; only India and North Korea produce weapons from Soviet designs.

INTERESTINGLY, it is not the countries with the highest levels of production that have become least dependent on arms imports. Imports by India and Israel are still much higher than their local production of weapons. The highest production-to-import ratios are found in Brazil,

ever components can be obtained from abroad and assembling them locally. This method was used successfully in producing armoured vehicles of different types.

The conclusion of the Sipri study is that arms embargoes have not had much effect on South Africa's military capabilities, although they have put an additional strain on the country's financial resources and on its highly skilled manpower and scientists. Although no official figures are published, the available evidence suggests that domestic production is very costly to the South African economy and relatively expensive compared to the cost of imported sophisticated weapons.

South Africa's arms exports are now reputed to be in the region of \$20-25 million. The main customers are thought to be Taiwan, Chile, Israel and, possibly Morocco. Sipri's assessment of the present state of the South African arms position is that:

"South African armaments are full. Exports are limited by both costs and political considerations. The South African armed forces still have demands — but they are for small numbers of systems and for systems with high advanced-technology content, such as helicopters, surveillance aircraft, larger patrol ships and tanks. The efforts to produce such state-of-the-art systems did not succeed in the first 20 years of arms production. The chances that they will succeed in the future are dependent on an intensified inflow of foreign military technology."

While South Africa's arms experts say they are very grateful for the arms embargo, the chief executive of the Arms Corporation has admitted: "The arms embargo is very real and the people who maintain it are very effective."

A second method is through a type of engineering known as "add-on," which involves acquiring what-

ever components can be obtained from abroad and assembling them locally. This method was used successfully in producing armoured vehicles of different types.

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immigrants in Israel for less than 20 years ... tourists

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The Consulate of France in Tel Aviv reminds Israeli and other tourists that they can obtain, individually or through a travel agency, visas valid for one or two years, which enable them to make repeated stays in France for maximum periods of three months each. These visas now cost 100 French francs, which amount to NIS 27.

Passports handed in by travel agencies can be collected by them on dates agreed on with the Consulate.

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MARKET PLACE

By PINHAS LANDAU

Two spanners in the works

A few days of relative stability are all that the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange was allowed. After that brief interlude, the gremlins got to work and delivered two separate shocks to the system, thereby throwing everything into confusion.

First, the higher-than-expected consumer price index for June, while in itself perhaps not so significant, gained impact as it came in the wake of the devaluation scare which had already shaken the financial markets. People were already sensitized, and therefore paid greater attention to the inflation statistic than they might otherwise have done.

The real message of the June cost-of-living increase was that inflation cannot be forgotten, as many people had erroneously assumed recently. Most parts of the index rose by around two per cent, and it was the failure of fruits and vegetables to fall as much as expected on a seasonal basis that kept the overall figure at one per cent, instead of one-half per cent or less, as predicted.

That meant that October, or at latest November, is now the likely date for payment of the next C-1 increment, instead of November/December. The common wisdom is that the effect of the C-1 on wage costs and hence on competitiveness abroad will lead to a devaluation soon thereafter in the order of 10 per cent.

On the other hand, there is a danger of an overly pessimistic reaction to the June index. July will be influenced by end-of-season sales as well as seasonal fruit and vegetable prices, and may turn out to be very low - last year it was zero.

The second shock was delivered by the Tehiya Party, whose proposed vote of no-confidence may bring the government down.

The common wisdom, again, is that since uncertainty is bad for the share market, the prospect of the government falling and of early elections is a negative factor for shares. It will, however, drive investors into the safety of the index-linked bond market, and will make dollar-linked investments more attractive.

A variant thesis suggests that after the initial disquiet caused by the government falling, the markets might pay more attention to the campaign itself, and what the parties are saying about the next government and its policies.

Even this more optimistic version, however, is based on one cardinal fact, namely that until the government does fall and new elections are declared, the markets will certainly be driven mad by the uncertainty. The period of political maneuvering is therefore unequivocally bad for shares, probably good for index-linked bonds, but probably best of all for short-term unlinked investments.

Against this background, the fact that the share market fell by an average of three per cent yesterday, without any great rush to sell, and with a reasonable readiness to buy, may be regarded as a positive development.

What will happen on Sunday is not even open to guessing. The die will be cast by the early morning news broadcasts covering the Tehiya no-confidence motion, and again by the 1:00 news on the same subject. If, say, the Likud persuades Tehiya to back off, the threat to the government will dissipate yet again, and relief will sweep the markets - however temporarily.

If the no-confidence motion is passed, the whole week will be dominated by political uncertainties. Worth noting is the point made by more than one money manager yesterday, that although on days like yesterday the market tends to go up or down *en bloc*, the fortunes of different companies are not uniform. These days, therefore, represent opportunities to buy shares of those companies with attractive prospects as investments for the longer term. You just gotta know which they are.

Israelis flock to S. Africa

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Israeli tourists, oblivious to government talk of boycott, are flocking to South Africa in growing numbers. For the first six months of this year, Israeli tourism was up 18 per cent over the same period in 1986 and visa applications last month were 55% higher than June 1986.

The new head of the South African Tourism Board in Tel Aviv, Bertus Van Zyl, expects a 20 per cent rise in Israeli tourism by the end of the year.

The fall of the rand is one of the chief reasons for the heightened tourist interest in South Africa. Hotel rates, including five-star hotels, internal transportation and car rentals, shopping and restaurant prices are significantly cheaper than in Europe and sometimes 50 per cent less than in Israel.

Van Zyl declined to comment on reports that an Israeli inter-ministerial committee had recommended that the government take steps to curtail tourist visits to South Africa. He said he shared the sentiments of Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir, who stated last week that a strict demarcation must be drawn between tourism and politics.

5-day week vote crucial to wage pact

Jerusalem Post Staff
The Histadrut's demands for a five-day working week, which Finance Minister Moshe Nissim said he would submit to the weekly cabinet meeting on Sunday, is understood to enjoy the support in principle of at least half the ministers.

The cabinet, however, is not expected to give practical approval to implementation of the proposal on Sunday. Instead it will set up a committee of experts to study how other countries have tackled the problems generated by a comprehensive switchover from a six-day week to one of only five working days.

Some of the support for the proposal rests on political rather than economic grounds, since it would certainly be popular in the period before elections.

For that reason, among others, the vote in the cabinet is not expected to follow party lines, and ministers from the Likud as well as the Alignment will advocate the change.

Finance Minister Moshe Nissim yesterday renewed his attack on a public sector wage accord that would include across-the-board wage increases.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce in Israel, Nissim warned against a major wage increase that would trigger a new inflationary spiral, ultimately blunting the buying power of any pay increase.

According to previously published reports, Nissim has agreed to back a five-day work week in exchange for a two-year contract with the Histadrut.

Trade union secretaries-general held yesterday what were described as "internal consultations" with trade union department head Haim Haberfeld.

The union officials said afterwards they did not expect any industrial action until after the cabinet meeting, but warned that further strikes action would result if the ministers voted against the shorter work week. They stressed that cabinet approval was essential to resolve the current dispute over public sector wages.

Health Minister Shoshana Arbeli-Almosino declared yesterday that a five-day work week is "good for your health" and that she would therefore support it.

Arbeli-Almosino, in a statement released yesterday, said that studies abroad show that a shorter work week reduces tension and improves personal relations, leaving more free time for family, sport and other entertainment activity. Also, more people would go for necessary medical treatment on their day off, she said.

But Science and Development Minister Gideon Parit told *The Jerusalem Post* last night: "The deal would be cheap for the state budget, but dangerously expensive for the national economy in the long run."

"A five-day week would only make sense if it began in the manufacturing sector so that production workers have Friday free to handle arrangements at government and municipal offices, which would need to remain open. But if those offices are closed on Friday as well, we'll merely encourage midweek absenteeism in the manufacturing sector which would be destructive, and in two years' time we would have to switch to a four-day week in order not to increase the budget."

Moshavim launch lobbying campaign

By DAVID RUDGE
KATZIRIN. - The country's destitute agricultural settlements plan to launch an aggressive "Save our Settlements" (SOS) lobbying campaign next week.

Their aim is to force the government to resolve the financial crisis that is crippling the moshavim and kibbutzim, Golan regional council chief Eitan Lis said yesterday.

Settlement leaders, who have formed a national campaign committee with the backing of the Histadrut, plan to meet in Safad on Sunday to discuss strategy.

Gulf tensions send oil prices to 18-month high

NEW YORK (Reuters). - Concerns over a U.S.-Iranian confrontation in the Gulf have sparked a sharp increase in crude oil prices, sending oil prices above \$22 a barrel for the first time since January 1986.

The U.S. benchmark crude, West Texas Intermediate, shot up more than 80 cents to \$22.39 a barrel in futures trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange on Wednesday before falling back some to \$22.15 in late trading.

The price on the spot market also rose sharply, adding 55 cents to a quote of \$22.18 a barrel in late trading.

"Everything points to \$25 a barrel for spot West Texas Intermediate crude down the road," said Nauman Barakat, analyst at Smith Barney, Harris Upham and Co. "The question is not if, but when will the embargo explode."

The U.S. recently edged closer to a showdown with Iran by agreeing to place 11 tankers from Kuwait - a backer of Iraq - under American protection.

North Sea Brent for delivery in August also pierced the key psychological barrier of \$20 a barrel in Europe and the U.S. At midday Wednesday in New York, it was quoted at \$20.25, its highest level since January 1986, before falling back to \$20.17.

"The market is very strong," said Richard Redoglia, a broker with Merrill Lynch. Its strength was backed by a report Iran was prepared to sink U.S. ships in the Gulf, he added.

Petroleum product prices were sharply higher as well. Gasoline was up 1.06 cents in futures trading at 56.55 cents a gallon. Heating oil was up over half a cent to 55.93 a gallon.

In recent years, some 300 vessels in the Gulf have been hit. The U.S. has said it is determined to maintain the safety of the waterway through which about one sixth of the West's oil passes.

"Maybe nothing will happen, maybe cool heads will rule, but there must be a substantial risk that sooner or later there will be a clash between Iran and the U.S.," said oil analyst Mehdi Varzi of London brokers Kleinwort Griverson Securities.

The price increase was also supported by a weekly American petroleum institute report that showed rising demand for petrol in the U.S. and shrinking petrol and crude oil inventories.

British Air to buy British Caledonian

LONDON (Reuters). - British Airways (BA) said yesterday it will acquire British Caledonian (BC) Airways for £237 million (\$380m.) to create a large carrier capable of taking on the major U.S. airlines.

"The merger of British Airways and British Caledonian gives British Aviation an unequaled opportunity to create a British airline capable of taking on the world," said BA Chairman Lord King.

The move means that recently privatized British Airways, which has a fleet of over 160 aircraft, will take on British Caledonian's routes to Saudi Arabia, West Africa and some southern U.S. cities, as well as continuing its flights to most other parts of the world.

"The new combine will provide Britain with its own mega-carrier operating a route network unrivaled in the world with the inherent strength to challenge and beat the most aggressive competition," said BC Chairman Sir Adam Thomson.

The proposed deal, which would give the combined company a virtual monopoly in the UK, will be studied

by the government to determine whether it is in the public interest.

The merger requires British government clearance in line with usual practice. The director-general of Fair Trading will determine whether the agreement should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The airlines said their agreement was conditional on it not being referred to the commission. BC Airways is owned by British Caledonian Group PLC, a privately-owned unlisted company.

The British government sold off British Airways to the public in February, raising £900m. (\$1.4 billion), as part of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's drive to sell off state-run companies.

The privatization of the state-owned airline, the world's largest, had worried BC, which has had to carve a living from routes BA largely shunned.

British Caledonian was even harder hit than BA by the drop in trans-Atlantic traffic last year, when fears of terrorism and the Chernobyl

nuclear disaster kept North American tourists away.

It lost £19.3m. (\$31.5m.) before taxes in the financial year ended last October, compared with £12.7m. (\$35.4m.) profit the year before. Those losses killed a planned share issue.

British Airways, in contrast, earned £62m. (\$264m.) before taxes, in its latest financial year, which ended March 31.

BC has argued that the way governments parcelled out routes to airlines left it short-changed, but yesterday's move effectively reduces competition on major British air routes.

The two airlines said their combination, whose name has not yet been chosen, will be more effective in fighting increased competition that has emerged over the last two years, particularly in the U.S.

Although Europe is a long way from opening its airways to free competition, many European airlines are looking to the U.S. experience and are preparing themselves for tough times ahead.

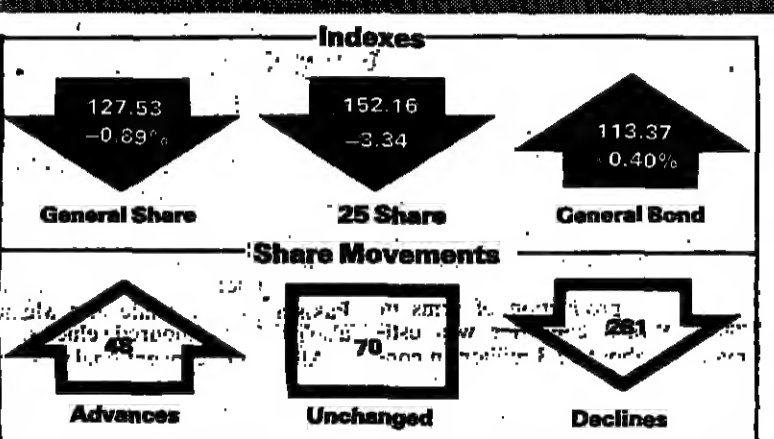
Dow breaks 2,500 barrier

NEW YORK (Reuters). - The stock market passed another milestone today, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average rising to 2,500 points for the first time in history.

The Dow average of 30 leading stocks rose 16.26 points from Wednesday's close to 2,500 in active trading, minutes before the close of the market.

The 100-point barrier has fallen with increasing speed this year. It went above the 2,000 level on January 8. Since the beginning of the year, the Dow average has risen 30 per cent from the 1,927.31 close on January 2.

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange



Selected Prices

Name	Price	Volume	% change
General Share	127.53		-0.89%
25 Share	152.16		-3.34%
General Bond	113.37		0.40%
Advances	4		
Unchanged	70		
Declines	261		

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25 Share	152.16		-3.34%
General Bond	113.37		0.40%
Advances	4		
Unchanged	70		
Declines	261		

Real Estate, Building and Agriculture

Name	Price	Volume	% change
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25 Share	152.16		-3.34%
General Bond	113.37		0.40%
Advances	4		
Unchanged	70		
Declines	261		

Industrials

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25 Share	152.16		-3.34%
General Bond	113.37		0.40%
Advances	4		
Unchanged	70		
Declines	261		

THE JEWISH AGENCY ISRAEL EDUCATION FUND

- THE JEWISH AGENCY (hereinafter the Agency) invites tenders from building contractors for the construction of a: SENIOR CITIZENS DAY CARE CENTRE IN UPPER NAZARETH, SPONSORED BY "SHELTERS FOR ISRAEL"
- The projected construction: 600 sq.m.
- Conditions of the tender as well as all other pertinent information can be obtained from Thursday, July 16, 1987, from the Agency, 17 Kaplan Street, Tel Aviv, room 717 between 9:00 and 12:00 noon, against a non-refundable payment of NIS 300.
- A special tour of the construction site for contractors will be held on Monday, July 27, 1987, departing at 10:30 a.m. from the Chief Engineer's office - Upper Nazareth Municipality.
- Bids should be submitted not later than 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 19, 1987, at the address mentioned in paragraph 3 above.
- This tender is open only to contractors registered in accordance with the Act regarding Registration of Contractors for the Execution of Engineering and Construction Works 1969, such contractors to abide by requirements of the Act and to be eligible to carry out the works as specified.
- The Agency does not undertake to accept the lowest, or any other bid.

Egypt raises oil prices

CAIRO (AP). - Egypt has decided to increase export prices of its crude oil by 30-40 cents, petroleum industry sources said.

But oil ministry officials would not confirm the new prices, apparently because they have to notify their foreign clients first.

The sources said the new prices would be officially announced in a day or two.

Egypt is not a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries but sets its prices in accordance with world market conditions in light of Opec decisions.

Israel Money Markets

Bank	Deposit	3 months	6 months	12 months
Bank Leumi	10,000-49,999	8.00	8.00	8.00
Bank Leumi	50,000+	14.00	13.75	13.50
Bank Leumi	10,000-49,999	15.00	14.75	14.50
Bank Leumi	50,000+	15.00	14.75	14.50
Bank Leumi	10,000-49,999	15.00	14.75	14.50
Bank Leumi	50,000+	15.00	14.75	14.50
Bank Leumi	10,000-49,999	15.00	14.75	14.50
Bank Leumi	50,000+	15.00	14.75	14.50
Bank Leumi	10,000-49,999	15.00	14.75	14.50
Bank Leumi	50,000+	15.00	14.75	14.50

Foreign Exchange Rates (July 16)

Currency	Rate	Rate	Rate
U.S. dollar	1.5890	1.5890	1.5890
U.S. dollar	1.5890	1.5890	1.5890
U.S. dollar	1.5890	1.5890	1.5890
U.S. dollar	1.5890	1.5890	1.5890
U.S. dollar	1.5890	1.5890	1.5890
U.S. dollar	1.5890	1.5890	1.5890
U.S. dollar	1.5890	1.5890	1.5890
U.S. dollar	1.5890	1.5890	1.5890
U.S. dollar	1.5890	1.5890	1.5890
U.S. dollar	1.5890	1.5890	1.5890

Foreign Markets

EUROPEAN FINANCIAL MARKETS (July 16)

Precious Metals

Libor Rates

Foreign Currency Crossrates (London 15:30 GMT, July 16)

Share indices

NEW YORK FINANCIAL MARKETS (July 16)

U.S. Money Rates

New York Foreign Exchange

Statistics

Comment:

Precious Metals

Well Street (Prices as of 16:00 GMT)

Market Indices

NYSE Highest Volume

NYSE Comp

NYSE Inds

NASDAQ Comp

S-P 100 Index

S-P Comp

S-P Inds

Statistics

Comment:

Israeli Stocks Traded in New York

NYSE Index

NYSE Comp

NYSE Inds

NASDAQ Comp

S-P 100 Index

S-P Comp

S-P Inds

Statistics

Comment:

Over-the-Counter

NYSE Index

NYSE Comp

NYSE Inds

NASDAQ Comp

S-P 100 Index

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Five-day football

Pinhas Landau

WILL THE FIVE-DAY week become a new political football? Its sudden appearance on the public agenda, coinciding beautifully with the renewed prospects of early elections, suggests it will. That would be a pity, because then the real issues involved would be obscured by hot air and irrelevancies, and an opportunity to do some wider good might be thrown away.

From the point of view of industrial relations, a switch from a six-or, more accurately, five-and-a-half-day week to a five-day week involves the same factors as any other employer/employee negotiation. These boil down to output and pay.

At the end of the day, the employer wants as much output as possible for as small a wage bill as possible, while employees want to be paid as much as possible for as little work as possible. That, at least, is the classic confrontational attitude, based on a class-warfare approach, which still holds sway in most Israeli industrial-relations situations.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the public sector, where the inevitable absence of any profit-based incentive scheme is compounded by a less excusable absence of a structure that might limit merit to pay. Furthermore, in many jobs in the public sector, it is very difficult to measure output or, to use the key term in this whole discussion, productivity.

In any event, a demand by employees to switch to a five-day working week will be seen by employers in much the same light as any other demand aimed at getting more money for the same output, or the same pay for less output.

Thus, if the number of hours to be worked in the proposed five-day week is less than the number previously worked, the proposal is, in effect, to obtain the same pay for less output; if the five-day week contains the same number of hours as the five-and-a-half or six-day week, the idea is to get more money for the same output.

In the latter case, "more money" is used as a generalization, on the assumption that the employee feels him or herself better off working five days than five-and-a-half or six.

THIS BRINGS US to the first real issue within the general five-day-week. If it can be proven that output, or productivity, will be at least as high working a five-day, 45-hour week (42% in the summer), then working a five-and-a-half-day, 45-hour week then what difference does it make to the employers? Surely, this is a case where the Talmudic dictum of "zeh neheneh v'zeh lo haser" - one side benefits while the other loses nothing - applies. In these cases, we are told, not to go along with something that is no skin off your nose, but will help your fellow *midat Sdom*, behaviour fitting for the erstwhile and unrepentant inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Maybe so, but it is significant. Can it be proven? Numerous studies done in the private sector, where many firms have switched to a five-day week, suggest it can, but that doesn't mean that the same thing will hold true in the public sector, for reasons already noted.

What is interesting is that the Histadrut, whose proposal to usher in a five-day week in the public sector started the whole ball rolling, says it will sign a guarantee that the same amount of work will be done after the change as before. It is also prepared to agree that the total size of the public sector be frozen. Taken together, these promises mean that the onus of proving that it won't work is with the government, as employer, not with the employees.

NOW NOTE the almost hysterical reaction of the private sector employers. While it is well known that many firms in the private sector work five-day weeks, especially in high technology, it is also true that the bulk, who pay extremely low wages and are not renowned for providing outstanding working conditions, would as soon work their employees seven days a week as six or five-and-a-half, and only the law prevents them from doing so.

Thus, we have the spectacle of Manufacturers' Association president Dov Lautman urgently phoning Finance Minister Moshe Nissim from New York to warn him against

Economic policy at sea

THE GOVERNMENT still has an economic policy, which is more than can be said about several other areas of its responsibility. But this policy is becoming increasingly defensive, and lacking in any initiative. As time goes on, the prospect is for the defence to degenerate into ad hoc "fire-fighting" of specific problems.

This state of affairs is not of Finance Minister Moshe Nissim's own doing. He, at least, seems to have a clear idea of what he wants to achieve, and has far-reaching plans for vital areas of the economy. Economic growth in this country has long been hobbled by endless delays in introducing the restructuring measures, such as tax reform, he has endorsed. But Mr. Nissim is having growing difficulties in turning his programmes into reality.

Sometimes this is because of ideological opposition within the government, not necessarily on a straightforward party basis. Increasingly, however, the problem is that proposed reforms are bogged down in the swamps of vested interests and of bureaucratic procrastination.

That the decision over the future of the Lavi is being so dragged out may conceivably be explained by its importance, its complexity and the fact that, after all these years, the government is finally trying to take a decision after hearing, and hopefully mastering, all the arguments involved. Even then, it might have been thought that the agony could be abbreviated.

But there is surely no excuse for the fact that, 15 months after the Bejski report was published, the relevant ministerial committee only this week approved action on a limited and secondary recommendation regarding financial counselling within the banking system - a recommendation that will need the force of law before it is applied. Meanwhile, the much greater question of what is going to become of the banking system as a whole, and who is going to own the major banks, is being tossed around as a subject for academic debate, with the Treasury and Bank of Israel still not ready even to lay before the government an agreed proposal, or set of alternatives.

The likely outcome of this tardiness will be a situation of nationalization-by-default, when the banks drop into the government's lap in October 1988. But this does not prevent the same Treasury and government from talking about the need to privatize state corporations and withdraw from direct involvement in the economy.

Perhaps it is easy to be harsh on the Treasury, beset as it is by political and other pressures from both within and outside the government. Certainly, it would be wrong to ignore some very real achievements that the public neither sees nor hears of directly - such as the consistent rejection of applications to spend public money in supporting specific sectors.

But the impression is nevertheless growing that economic policy is, at best, pinned down in an effort to hold the line on things like wages and the government's budget, with greater or lesser success. At worst, the government seems to be living from one month's trade figures to another, and from one consumer price index to another, hoping that if it manages to stop things going wrong, everything will be all right.

That's a far cry from a reformist policy aimed at restructuring the economy, but it looks as though that will only come with a new government. Which is another reason for hoping that the elections will come as early as possible.

The Dry Bones LETTER FROM AMERICA

THE CAB DRIVER IS FROM URUGUAY.

THE HOTEL CLERK IS VIETNAMESE?

THE DELI WAITER IS FROM THAILAND?!

THE GUY IN THE STORE IS FROM INDIA??

I DON'T GET IT.

WHERE ARE THE OLD FASHIONED AMERICANS

YOU KNOW...

ITALIANS, IRISH, PUERTO RICANS, SWEDES...

West, is a non-starter.

But there is no ideological reason why barber shops should be shut on Monday afternoons, and others on Tuesday afternoons. There is no reason why shops, and also offices, should be forced to shut from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and why they may not stay open late at night (a situation that is finally beginning to change).

The rigid time-constraints on the provision of all sorts of goods and services are an expensive and irritating anachronism. They aggravate existing problems such as road congestion and, presumably, accidents. They also serve to reduce employment, because many part-time jobs that could be taken if flexible working hours were the norm, just never come into being.

The five-day week is only one aspect of this wider problem, although an important one. Its unexpected arrival on the government's plate provides a rare opportunity for doing something the government is exceptionally bad at - taking a detached and broad look at the way the quality of life of ordinary people might be improved.

The formula the government should adopt is the same one that pays lip-service to, namely, getting the government out of the economy, in this case by deregulation.

Market forces are gradually pushing in that direction, as is evidenced by the growth of late-night shopping, more flexible banking hours, and the number of firms switching to five-day weeks, sometimes with flexible working hours within those days.

The public sector, however, is by far the most hidebound in these respects. Therefore the proposal made by the Histadrut itself should be seized on and made into a much wider debate, which would encompass all aspects of how the public sector works, or doesn't work, and is paid - if you can call it payment.

Once the Pandora's box is opened, and the contradiction between the public service and the service it offers to the public is under scrutiny, there may indeed be no way back. Sip some tea and think about it.

The author is the finance reporter of The Jerusalem Post.

TO SUM UP so far: the narrow view of a switch to a five-day week, be it in the public or the private sector, must be on the lines of standard negotiations, i.e., of give and take.

It would be helpful to know just what is being given and taken, but the starting point must be the assumption that employees want a five-day week and are prepared to give something in return.

Whether that something need only be a negative commitment that output and productivity will not be less than at present, or whether it should be a positive commitment to improvements, is one of the things that will have to be thrashed out.

But there is a wider view, and that is really where the government should get stuck in right now, since it is going to find the whole topic thrust before it on Sunday.

This starts with the fact that world experience shows that as a country's wealth increases, the length of the working week declines.

Have we arrived at this stage? That, you might think, would be a good question to pose to the government, but it isn't. In fact, it is none of the government's business whether individual firms, be they giants like Tadiran or minnows like local grocery shops, open their businesses for long or short hours, or for more or fewer days.

The government may well have an ideological view regarding the Sabbath - this is, after all, a Jewish state - so that the option of seven-day-a-week opening, now common in the

READERS' LETTERS

HASSLE AT DEPARTURE

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, - On Monday, my wife, my son and I are leaving Israel after a wonderful vacation here. But the thought of leaving from Ben-Gurion Airport is not only depressing, it is downright frightening.

Why can't the authorities do something to improve one's last image of Israel?

1. Organize correct single lines by using barriers.
2. Let only embarking passengers into the departure area.

(Obviously children, the elderly and the handicapped will need assistance.)

NORMAN SARKIN
Tel Aviv (La Jolla, Ca.).

OLD JAFFA

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, - We are dismayed by Haim Shapiro's slur on Old Jaffa (June 12). The term "tourist trap" disparages an entire hard-working community of artists, craftsmen, shopkeepers and restaurateurs.

As artists who have lived and worked in Old Jaffa for 16 years, we have endeavored to produce creative, original work which we sell at a fair price. Of equal importance, we are friendly, courteous and helpful to all visitors (tourists and Israelis, whether customers or not). As far as we know, our neighbours here in Old Jaffa behave in the same manner.

If a merchant among us does breach the code of good conduct, do tell your readers. But in the interest of good journalism, tell them who he is, where he is and what he has done.

ROSE & STANLEY HENDELMAN
Tel Aviv.

GRATITUDE

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, - Israel helped spring the Reverend Benjamin Weir from his barbaric captivity in Lebanon. So what happened? Its American "friends" set it up to "take the hit" when the initiative collapsed. And Rev. Weir, safely back home, opposed a Presbyterian Church proposal for better relations with Jews and appreciation of their link to Israel.

Turn the other cheek - and get the same old slap in the face.

SETH A. HALPERN
Scarsdale, N.Y.

THE STRAUSS SAGA

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, - In his Nahariya report of June 26, your reporter referred to the "Strauss family business being fully owned by the Strausses, except in the 70s." I wish to point out that my late father-in-law, Ivan Gusowski, was a full partner in 1947/50, and I signed cheques on his behalf in 1949/50, together with Dr. Richard Strauss.

The partnership was dissolved in 1950 when my father-in-law died and I went back to South Africa.

L. SALOMON
Tel Aviv.

DISCIPLINE

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, - According to the compeller's report for 1987, there is no discipline in the Israeli Army. How could it be different, when Israeli youth are not disciplined at home or at school?

God forbid that a teacher lay a hand on an unruly child. He would be either fired or charged with assault.

It is time that teachers be given more control in schools.

A. KRAMER
Galed.

LIKUD

(Continued from Page One)

Ultra-Orthodox sources said last night that Rabbi Eliezer Shach, the spiritual mentor of both Shas and Agudat Yisrael, has instructed the Aguda to also vote for early elections if the Rabbinical Courts proposal founders.

On the other side of the political field, the Progressive List for Peace, whose vote for early elections seems to be taken for granted, reiterated yesterday that it would support the motion only if Labour undertakes to press for legislation which would grant equal rights to Israel Arabs. Labour has until now resisted making such a pledge.

BLACKS

(Continued from Page One)

officials and said they were required to post a huge bond to enter the country. He added, "we have requested assurances that it will be resolved promptly."

Redman said the U.S. will present a *démarche* on this matter to the Israeli Embassy in Washington. Several *démarches* have been presented on this issue in the last two years.

Redman refused to comment publicly on prospects for a travel advisory, and said the U.S. is "engaged in serious discussions" with Israel. An informed Washington source said the travel advisory is a last resort, which the State Department clearly wants to avoid.

Asked at the daily briefing if the State Department plans to issue a travel advisory to Jews who have been forbidden right of entry into Saudi Arabia, Redman promised that a statement would be issued on this point.

The charges of discrimination may revive the dormant alliance between U.S. blacks and Arabs that was expressed four years ago, when black activist Jesse Jackson embraced PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

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